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WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

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WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

When, as an Egmont story editor in 2003, I first reviewed Donald D. Markstein's "Mystery of Freefer Hall," it was a plot idea for a 10-page comedy. Mickey and Goofy were invited to a not-yet-fleshed-out locale where they mistook a staged mystery for a real one.

Slowly the story developed away from this starting point. Egmont had lately purchased a fake-crime story from another writer, so I needed to ask Don to make the "real" mystery real. An exciting, intricate arson plot developed, and the now-scarier story ballooned from short to feature length. Then Don chose a locale: Floyd Gottfredson's legendary Bassett Manor, a place that veritably breathed action and suspense.

Could the new story become a sequel to Gottfredson's "Seven Ghosts," where Bassett Manor first appeared? Could "Ghosts" co-star Donald Duck appear with Mickey and Goofy? Editor-In-Chief Anna Maria Vind said yes to both.

The more the tale developed, the more interesting it got—and it grew again, from 16 pages to 20. The crowning touch came when César Ferioli chose to draw it in a purposeful mimic of Gottfredson's 1930s art style; to Ferioli, Colonel Bassett and other "Seven Ghosts" supporting players just wouldn't have looked right with a modern facelift.

To say this story didn't end up like it started out would be an understatement. But hopefully you'll agree that every twist in its evolution was for the better.

— David Gerstein

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Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Susan Daigle-Leach

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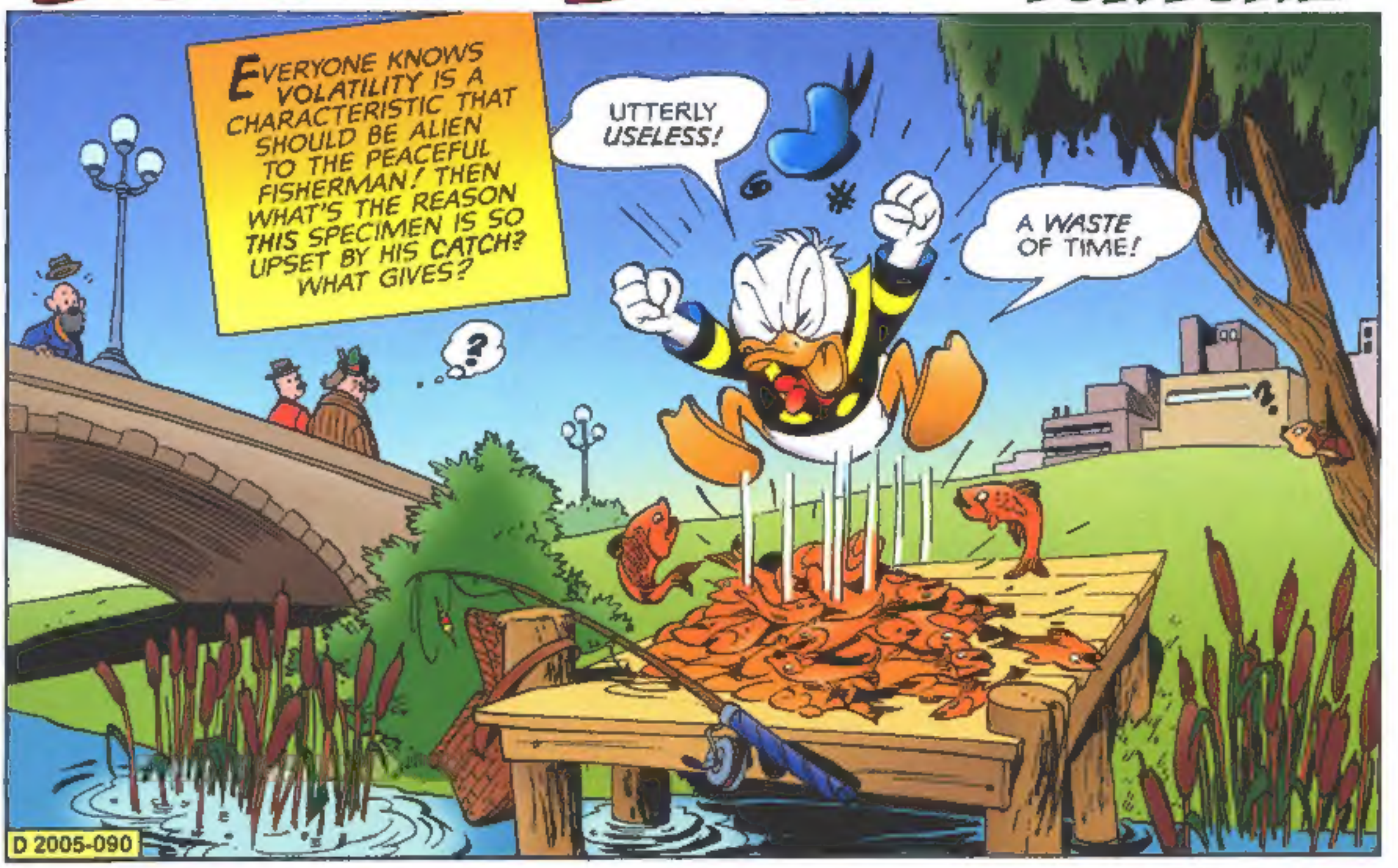
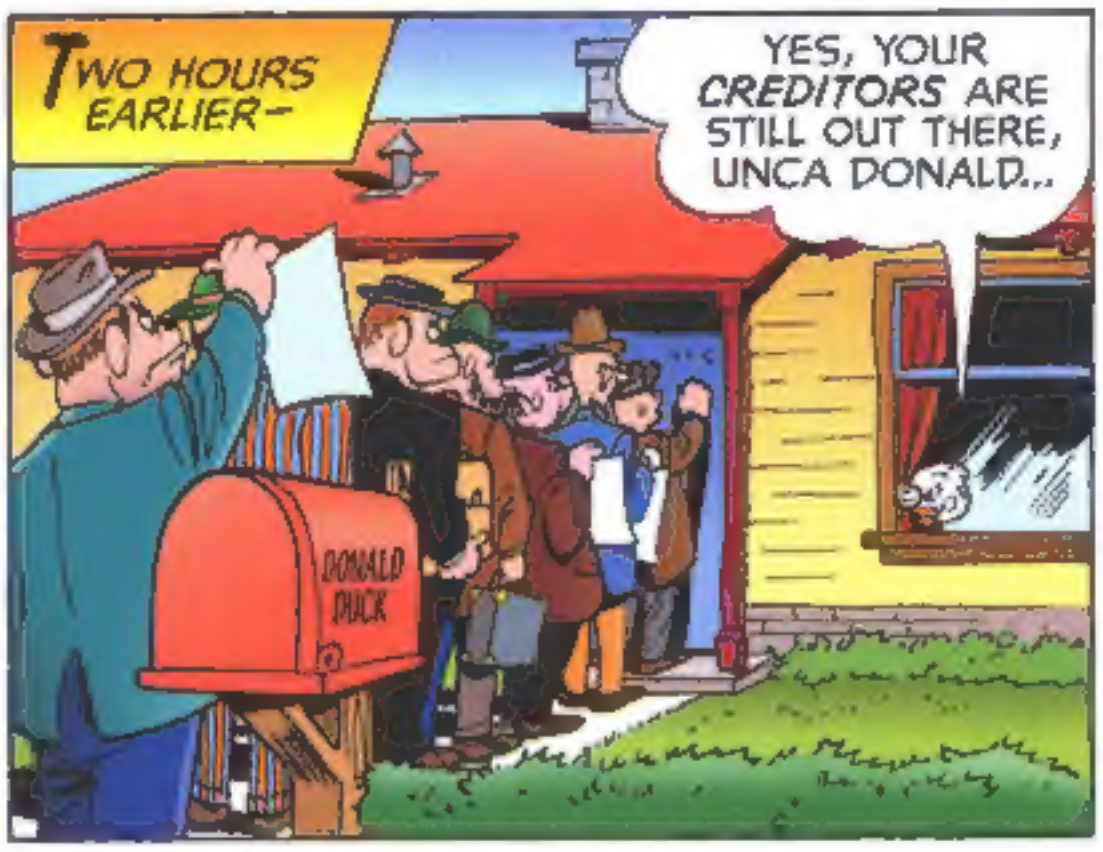
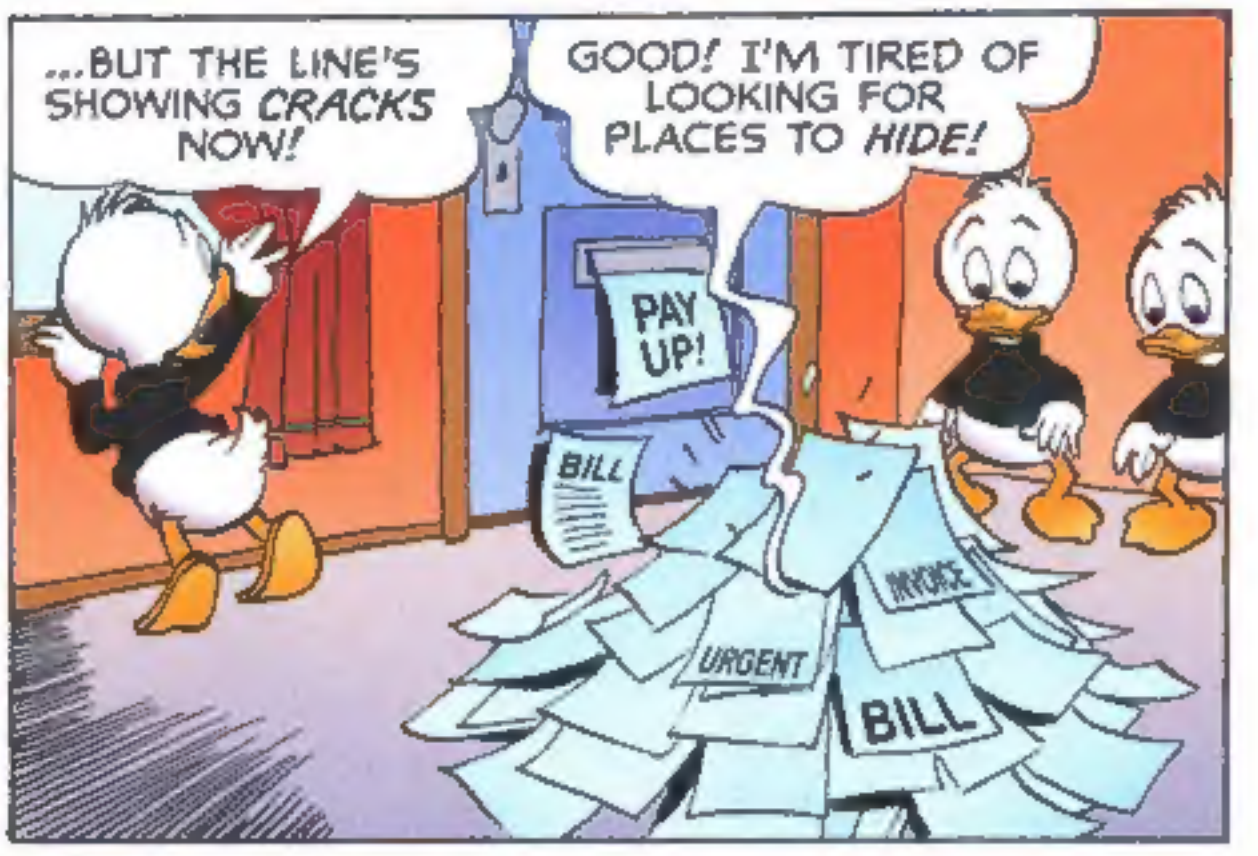
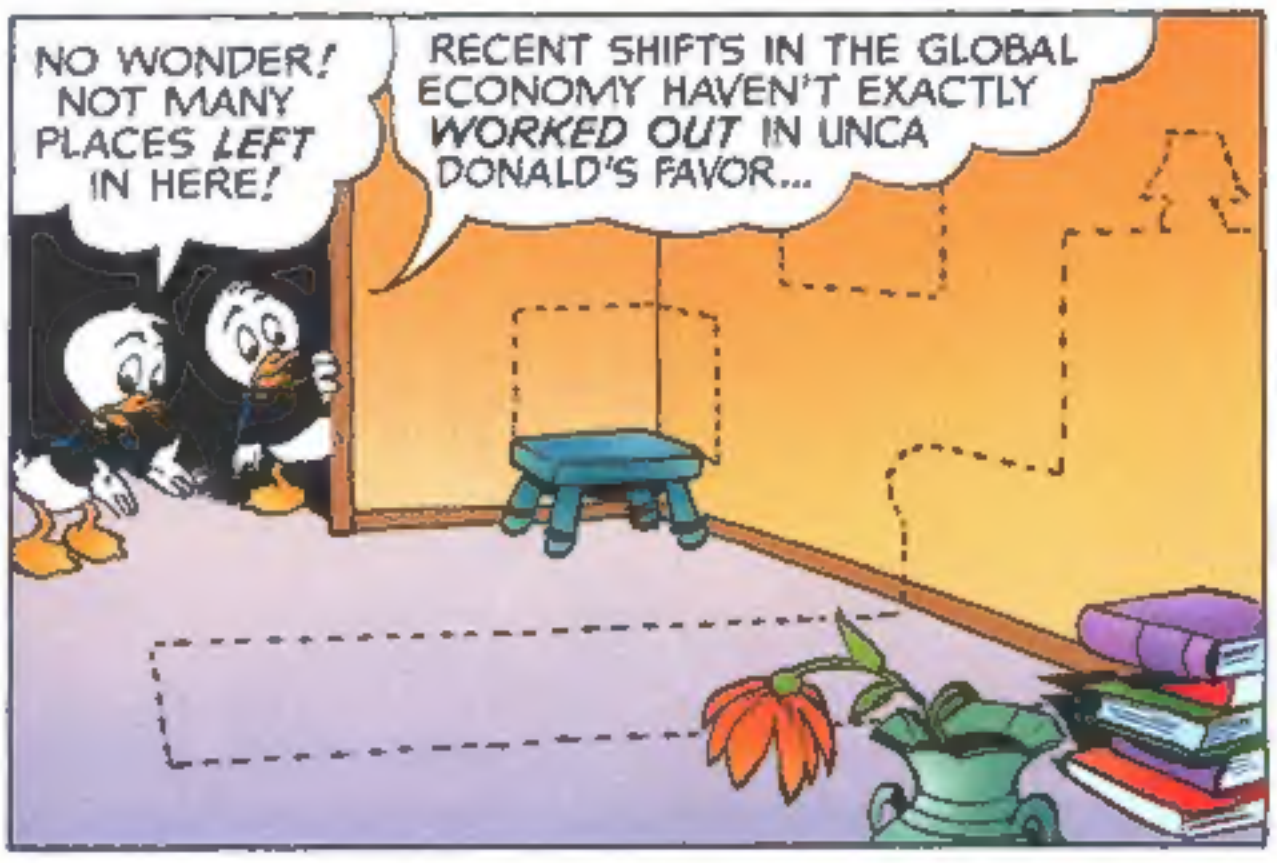
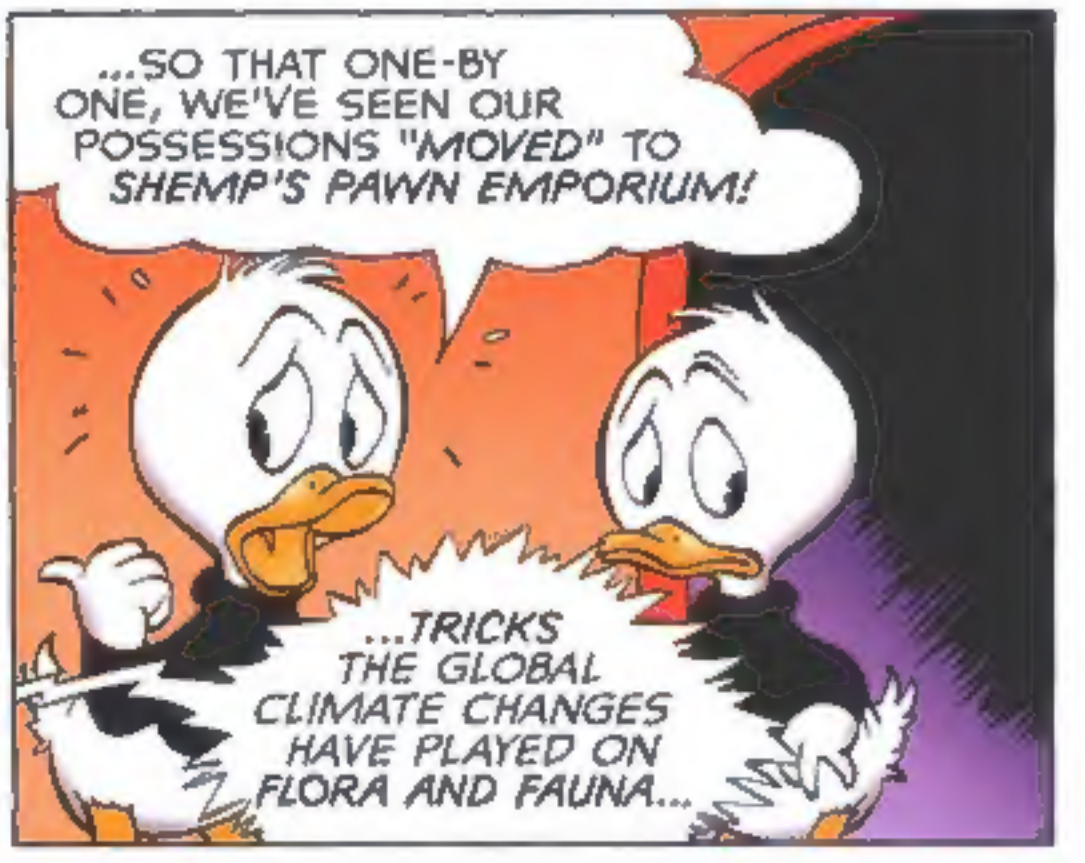
Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK in FROGGY FORTUNE


EVERYONE KNOWS VOLATILITY IS A CHARACTERISTIC THAT SHOULD BE ALIEN TO THE PEACEFUL FISHERMAN! THEN WHAT'S THE REASON THIS SPECIMEN IS SO UPSET BY HIS CATCH? WHAT GIVES?
?
UTTERLY USELESS!
A WASTE OF TIME!
D 2005-090






NO WONDER! NOT MANY PLACES LEFT IN HERE!
RECENT SHIFTS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAVEN'T EXACTLY WORKED OUT IN UNCA DONALD'S FAVOR...


...SO THAT ONE-BY ONE, WE'VE SEEN OUR POSSESSIONS "MOVED" TO SHEMP'S PAWN EMPORIUM!
...TRICKS THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES HAVE PLAYED ON FLORA AND FAUNA...

...HAVE PRODUCED SOME SURPRISING MUTATIONS! YESTERDAY, A LOCAL FISHERMAN CASHED IN BY SELLING A FUNNY-LOOKING BEWHISKERED CARP TO DUCKBURG'S AQUARIUM!

YOU KIDS HEAR THAT!?

THAT'S THE *BREAK* I WAS WAITING FOR! WATCH ME *CATCH* MY FORTUNE!

STOP, UNCA DONALD!

SINCE YOU COULDN'T PAY YOUR *CAR REGISTRATION*...

...YOU COULDN'T USE IT TO EVEN GO ON *JOB INTERVIEWS*, REMEMBER?

YOU'LL HAFTA *WALK* TO FAME AND FORTUNE!

AND SO–

IS THAT *ALL* YOU FISH CAN BE? *BACK IN THE WATER*, YOU BORING AND *TALENTLESS* BUNCH!

KICK!

CROAK!

BUT JUST WHEN DONALD TURNS HIS BACK...

THE KIDS WILL *SMIRK* AT MY RETURN! I CAN HEAR THEIR SNICKERING ALREADY!

?

HE'S BACK AND LOOKING *NONE TOO HAPPY!*

POOR UNCA DONALD'S *VOLATILITY* MESSES UP HIS SLIM CHANCES AT *SUCCESS!*

YOU KIDS PUT MY ROD AND TACKLE AWAY WHILE I GO AND *SULK* IN THE *MEMORY* OF MY BED!

CLONK!

?

CROAK?

CRASH!

?!

MY LAMPS! HOLD THAT FROG!

THAT BEAST WOULD'VE PLUNGED US INTO *DARKNESS*— *IF* WE'D BEEN ABLE TO PAY THE *ELECTRIC BILL!*

SEE THOSE *LEGS* ON THAT JUMPER?

KNOCK!

WHAT *STRENGTH!* WHAT *POWER!*

A *UNIQUE* SPECIMEN!

OUT YOU GO, YOU FREAKY FROG!

SUCH *HOSTILITY* HAS NO PLACE IN *MY* HOME!

KICK!

Oh, *SARCASM*, Eh? LEMME BACK IN!

BOM!

BAM!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FORCE WITH *FORCE!*

THESE ARE ALL THE TYPES OF FROGS THAT HAVE BEEN *IDENTIFIED* SO FAR...

THEN *OURS* MUST BE...

JUNIOR WOODCHUCK GUIDE

HOP!

HOP!

...A *NEW SPECIES!*

BANG!

HOLD OFF, UNCA DON-ALD!

IT SEEMS YOU'VE CAUGHT A *UNIQUE* SPECIES *AFTER ALL!*

IF YOU KIDS ARE IMPLYING IT'S AN *ENDANGERED* SPECIES, YOU ARE SO RIGHT!

=YAWN!=

FLIP!

BANG!

SWELL, UNCA DONALD...

CRASH!

...THERE GOES THE LAST OF OUR *GAS!* DON'T YOU GET IT? THAT *FROG* JUST MIGHT BE OUR TICKET *OUT!*

YEAH! LET'S *GRAB* HIM!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE *BROKEN WINDOW!*

WATCH OUT!

WONK!

NEVER KNEW *GETTING RICH* WOULD BE SO *NOISY!*

=SSSHH!=

...ANNUAL DUCKBURG FROG-JUMPING CONTEST...

...HAS GAINED MORE ATTENTION FROM THE PUBLIC THAN IN RECENT YEARS, MAYBE BECAUSE OF THIS YEAR'S $10,000 PRIZE MONEY! STARTS AT 2 O'CLOCK AT COOT'S MEADOWS!

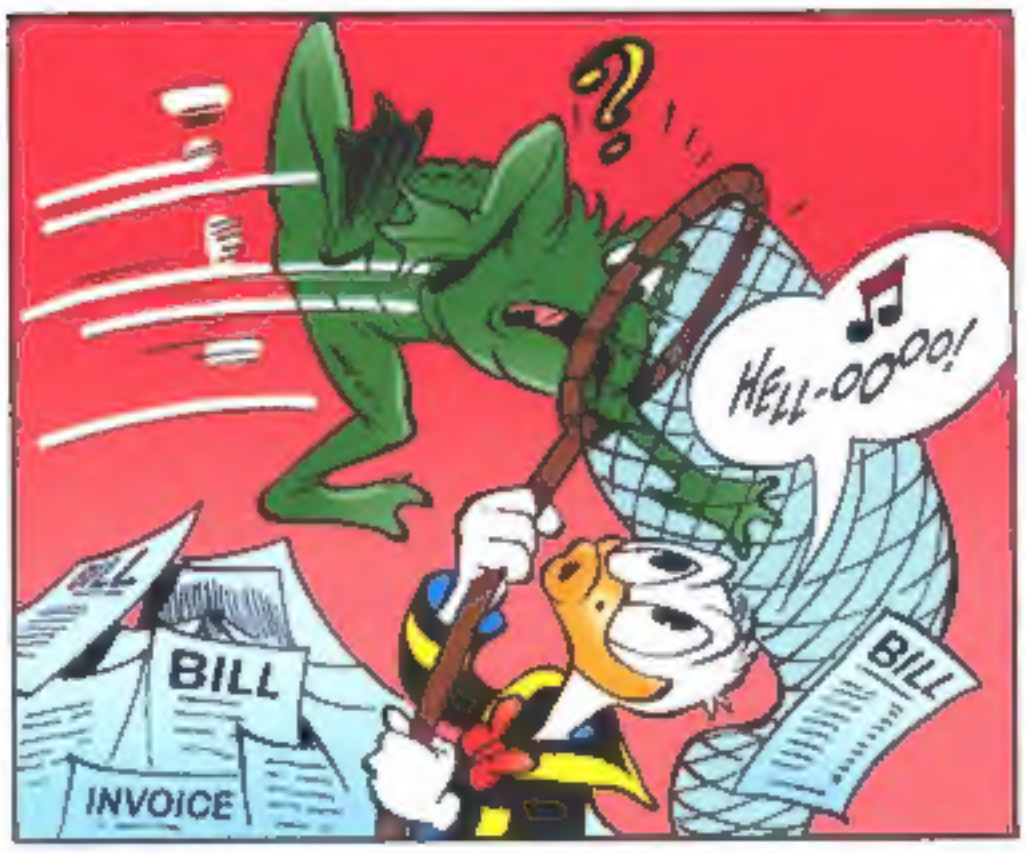
GOT THAT? WE ONLY HAVE *HALF AN HOUR* TO CATCH AND HAUL THAT AMPHIBIAN OVER THERE!

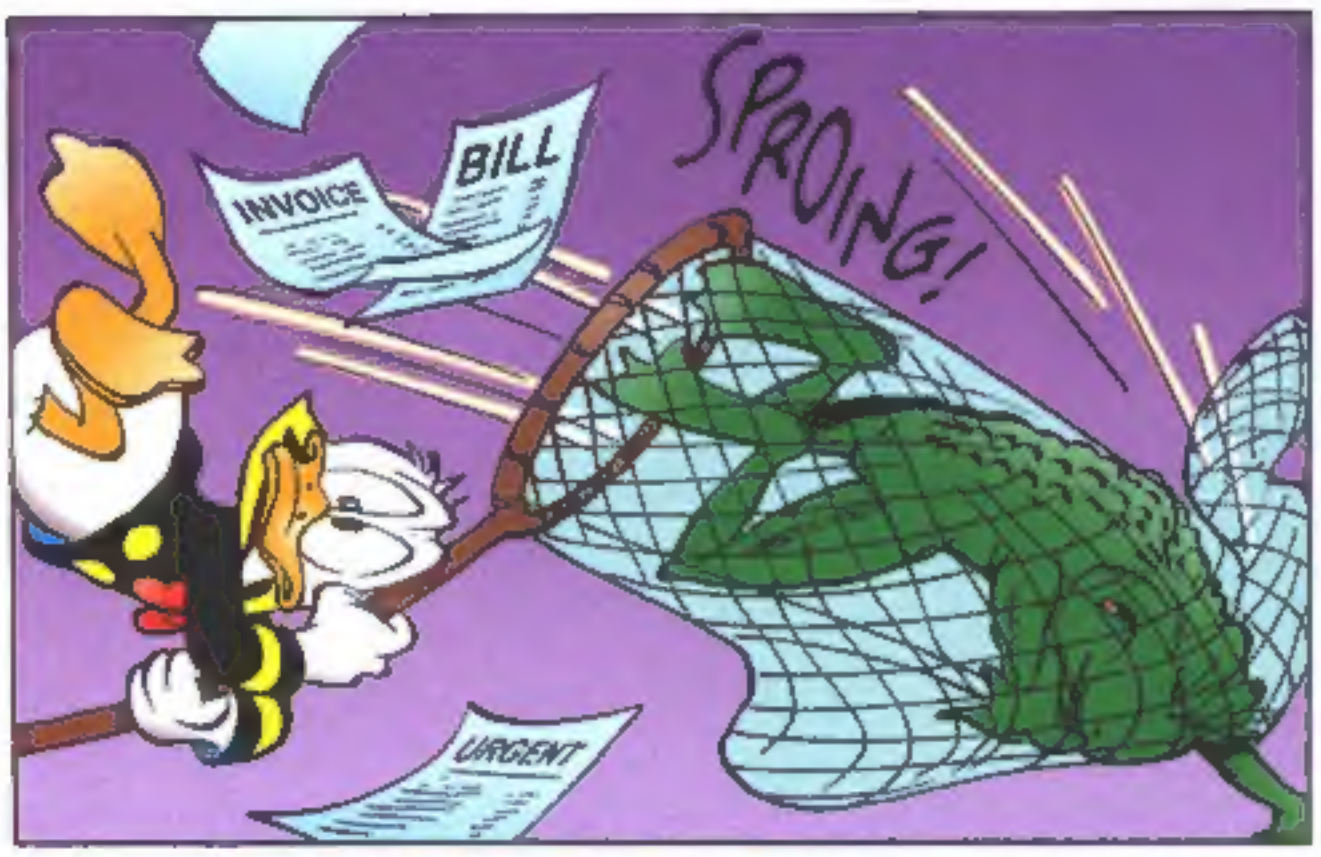
BETTER *CLOSE OFF* ALL EXITS!

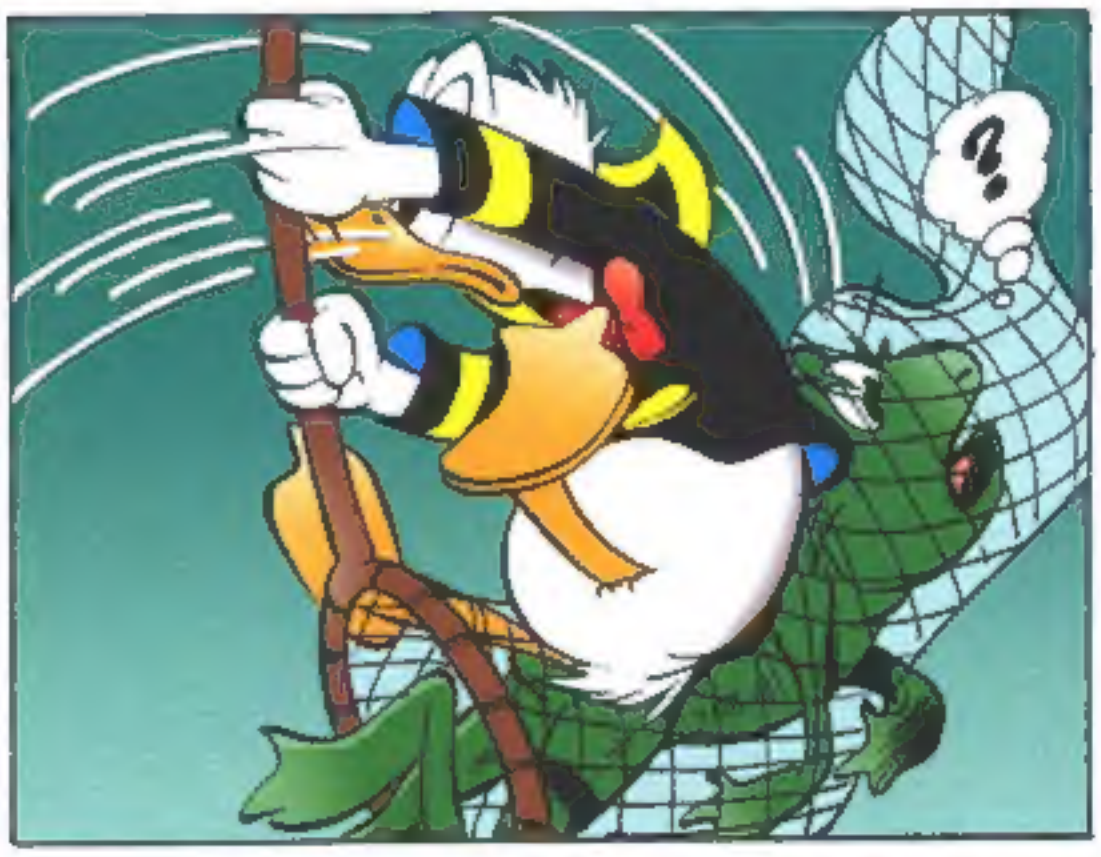
PHIBIAN! Oh, PHIBIAN! WHERE *ARE* YOU?!

GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO PAWN MY *BUTTERFLY NET* YET!

OUR MEAL TICKET WILL ONLY GET CAUGHT WITH *STEALTH* AND *CUNNING!* WATCH!


?
HELL-OOOO!
BILL
BILL
INVOICE
BILL


BILL
INVOICE
SPROING!
URGENT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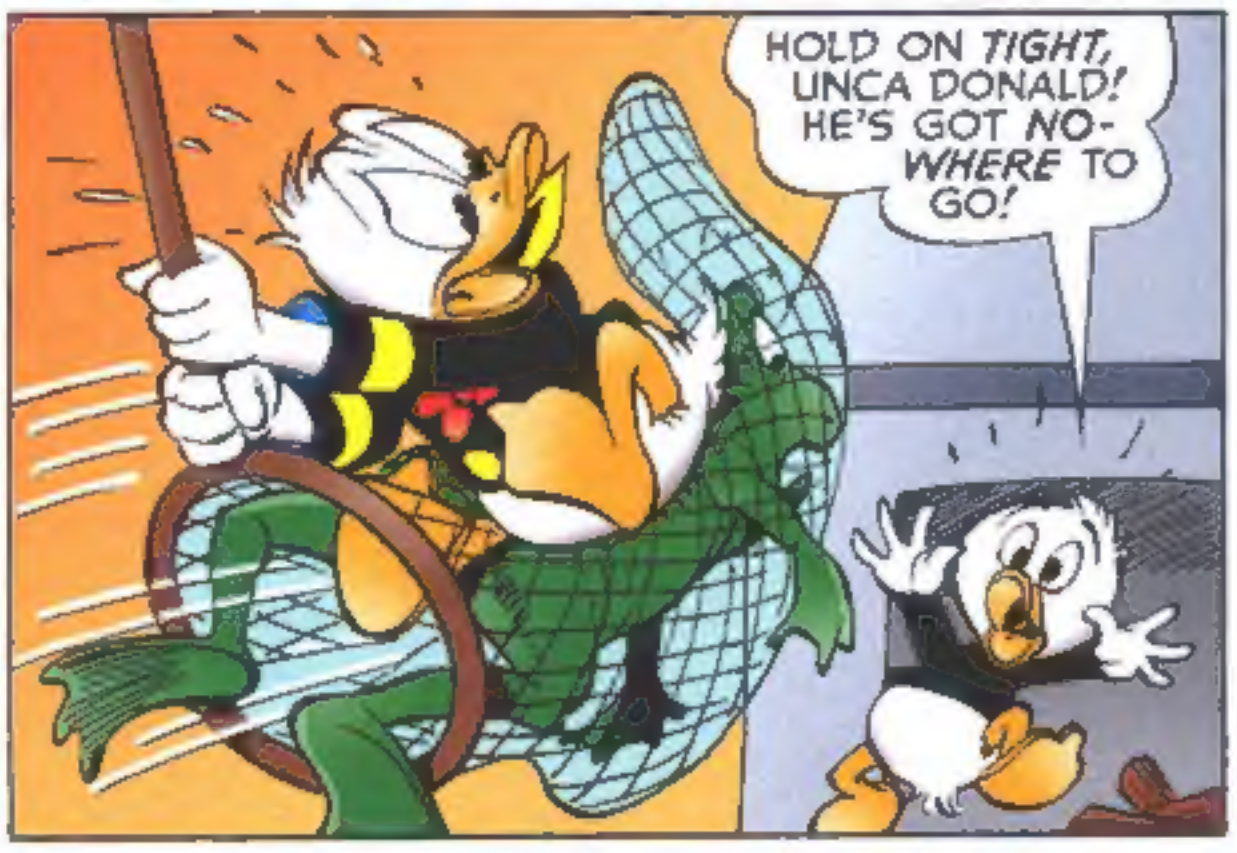
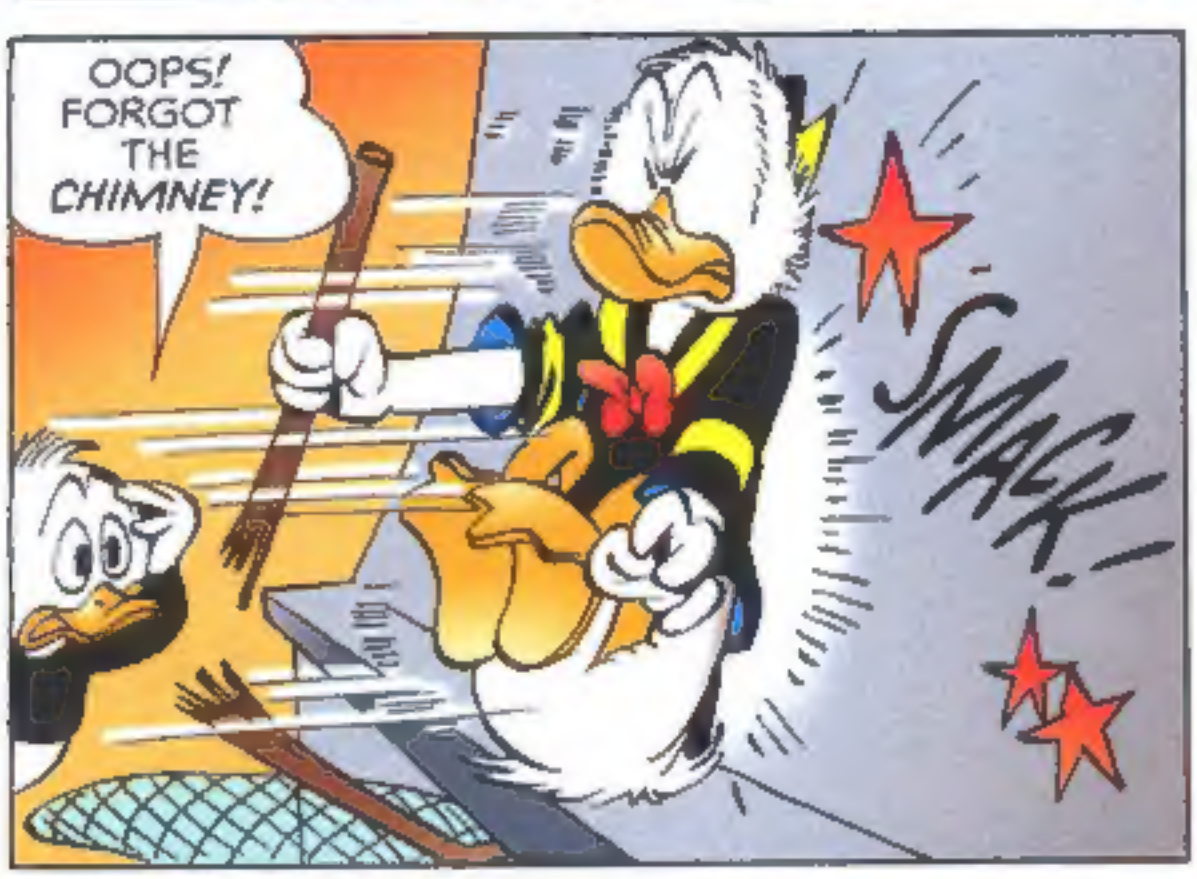
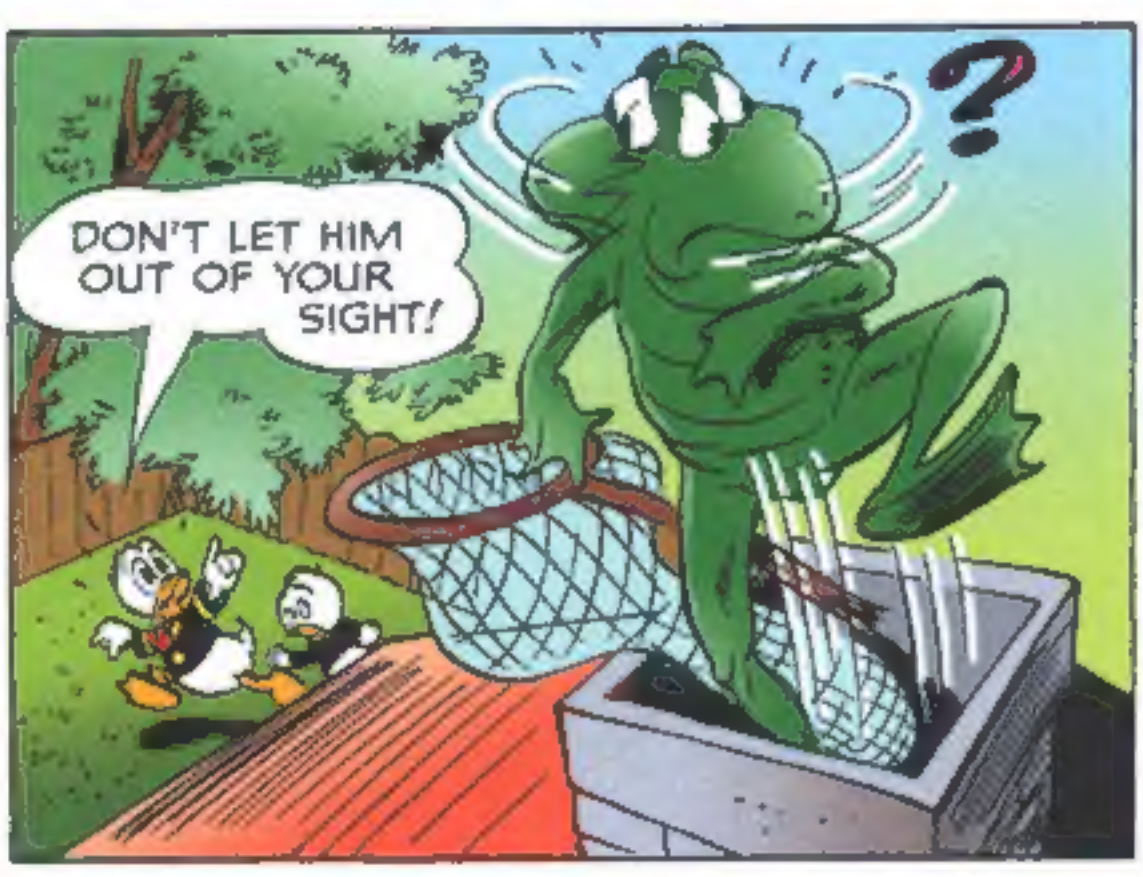
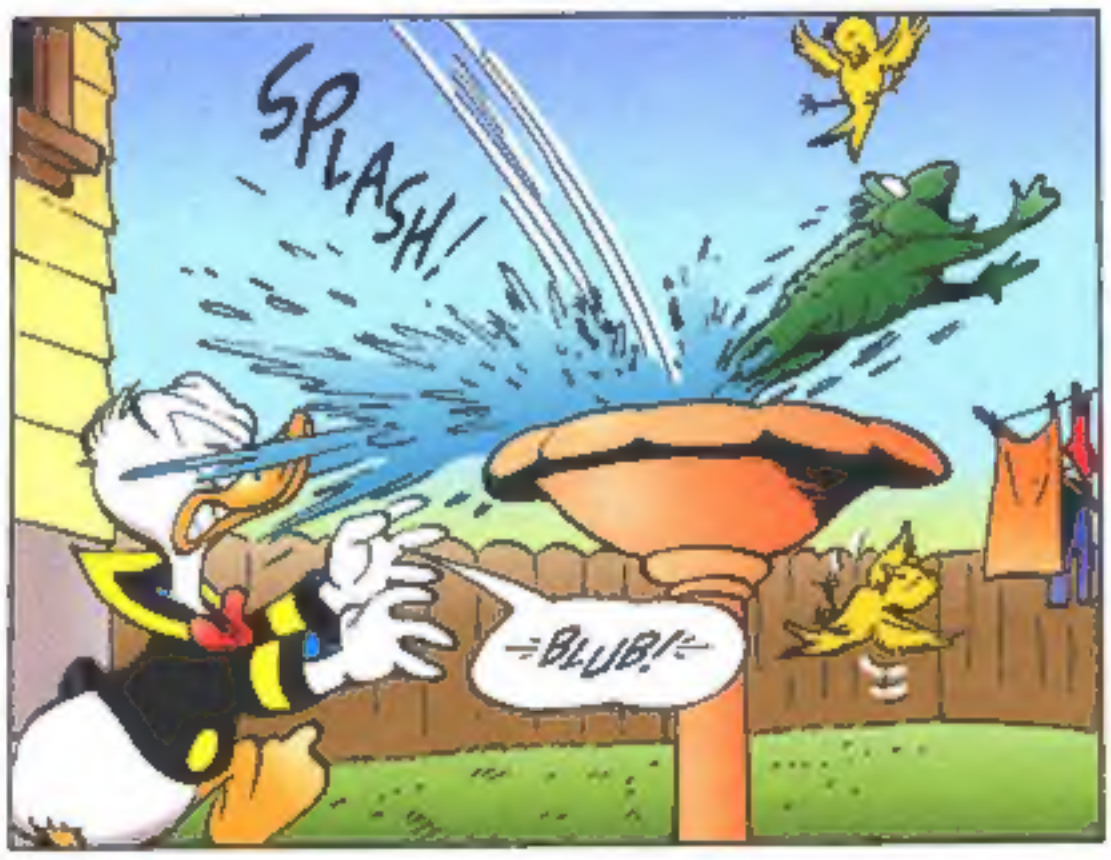
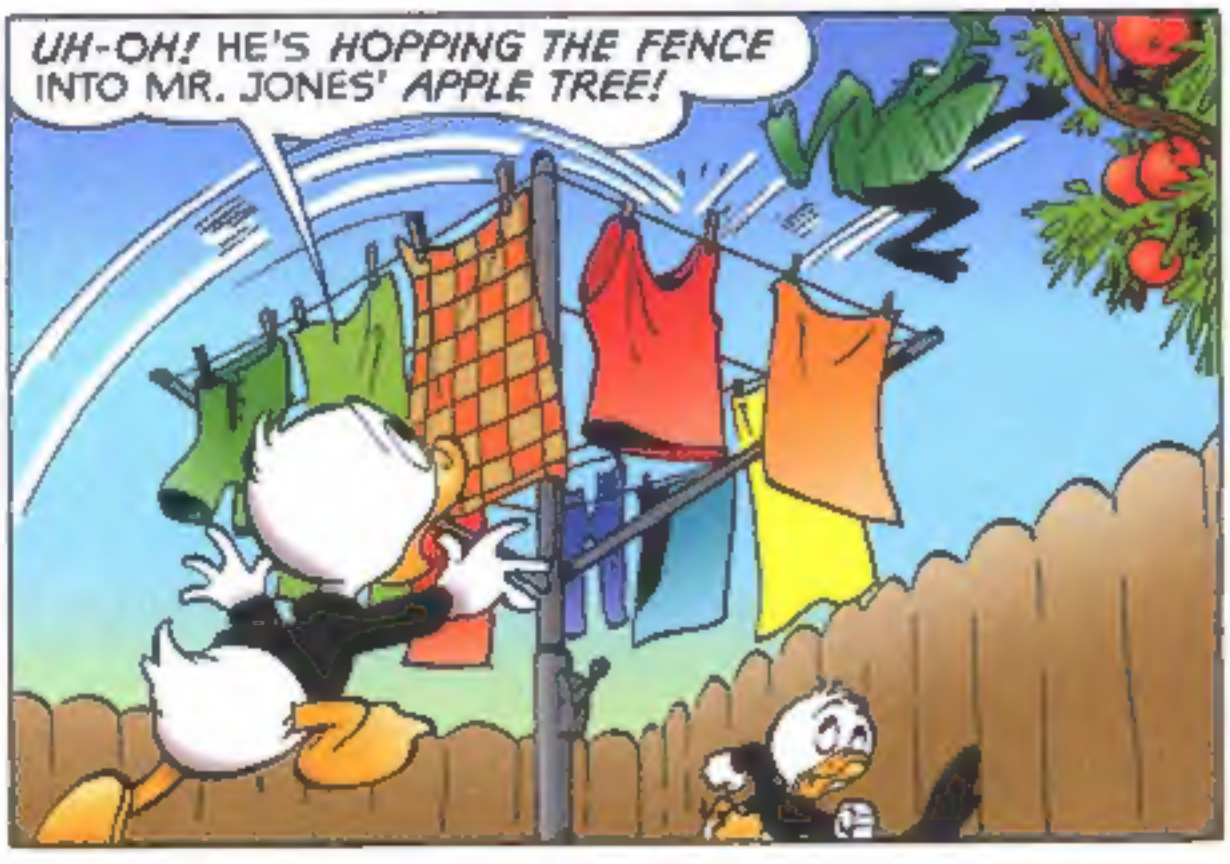

HOLD ON TIGHT, UNCA DONALD! HE'S GOT NO-WHERE TO GO!

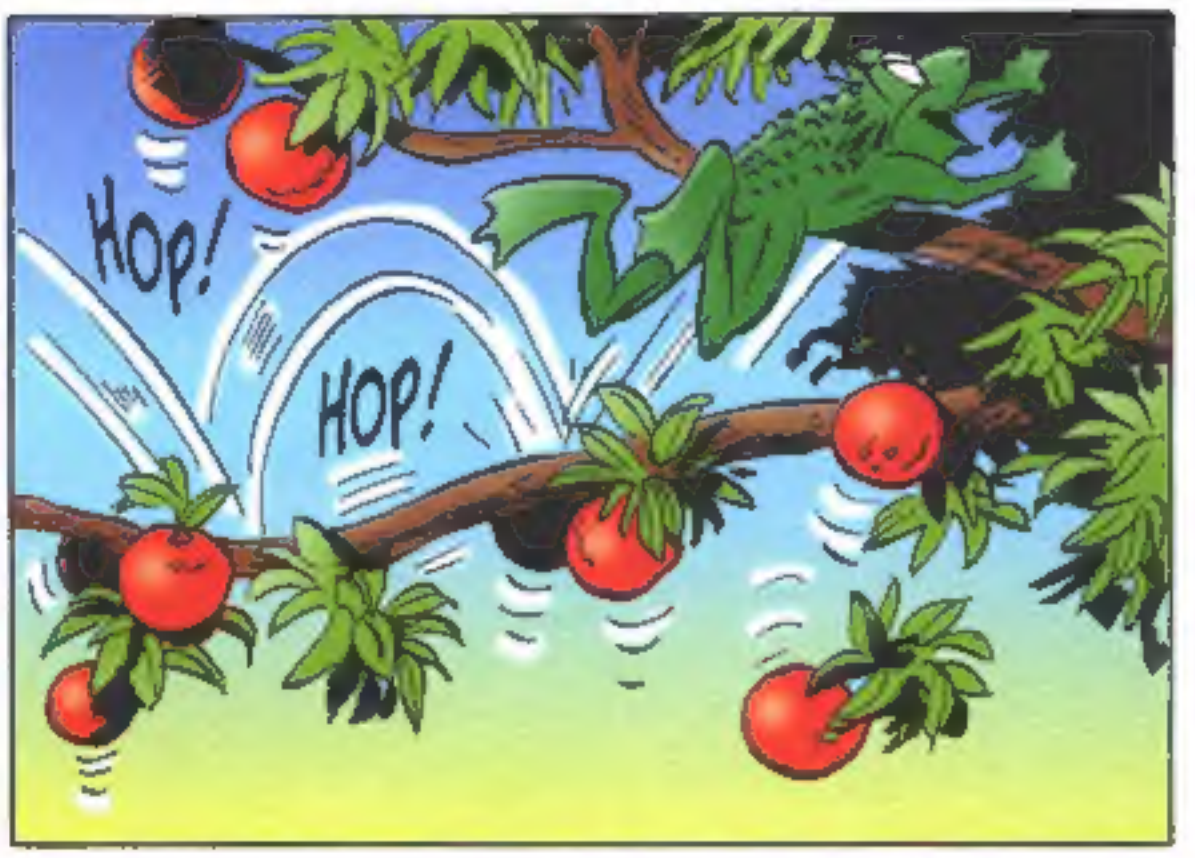

OOPS! FORGOT THE CHIMNEY!
SMACK!

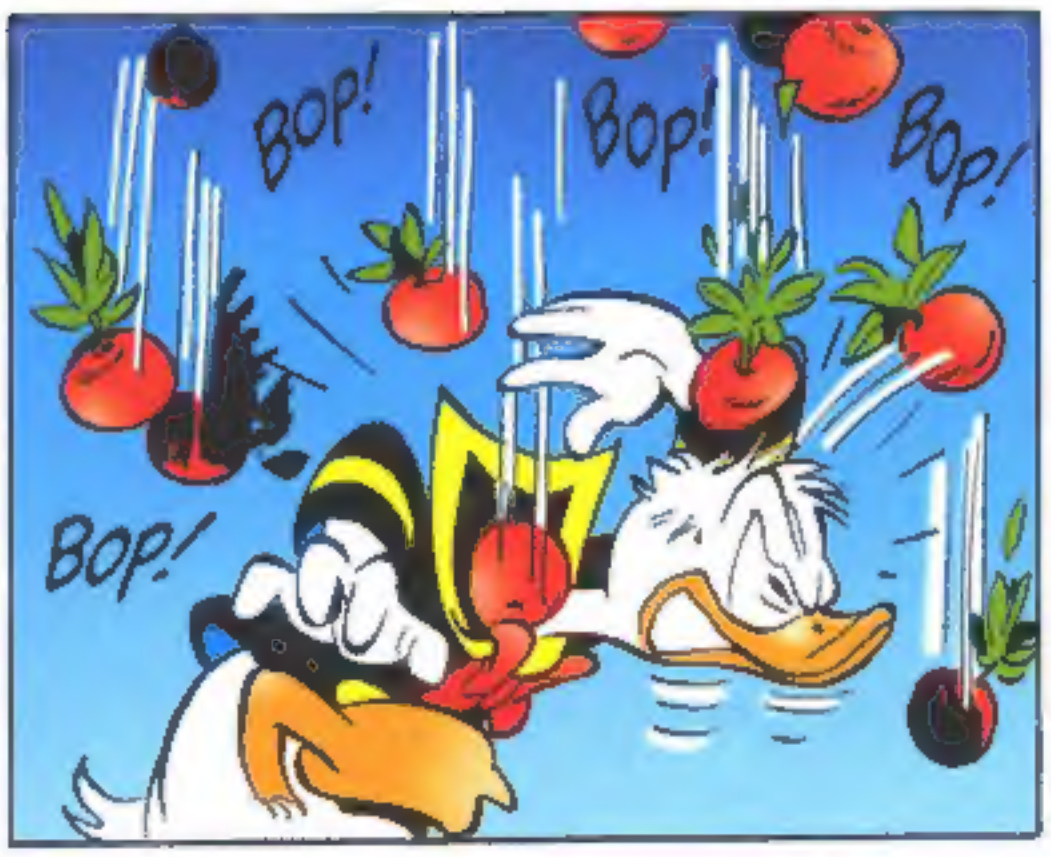

?
DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!

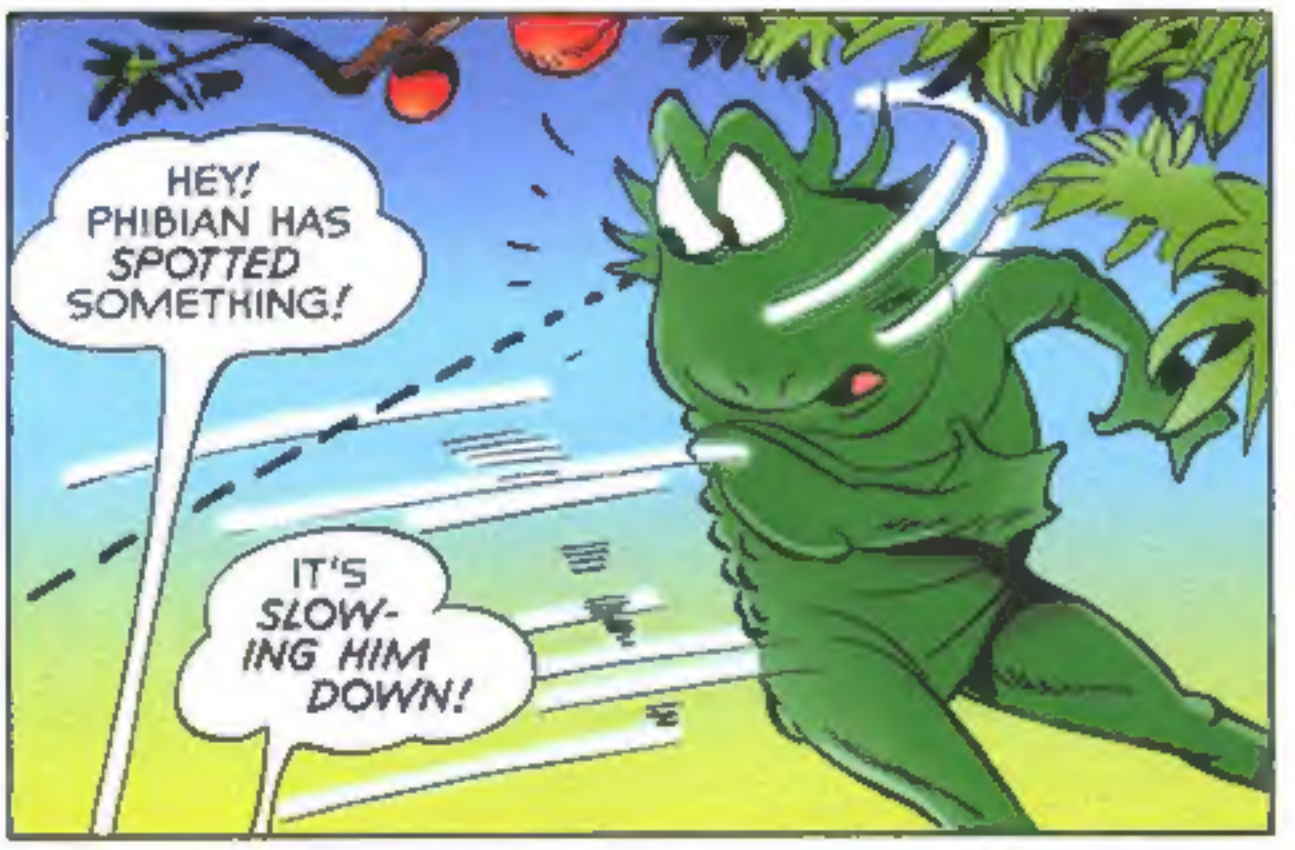

SPLASH!
=BLUB!=

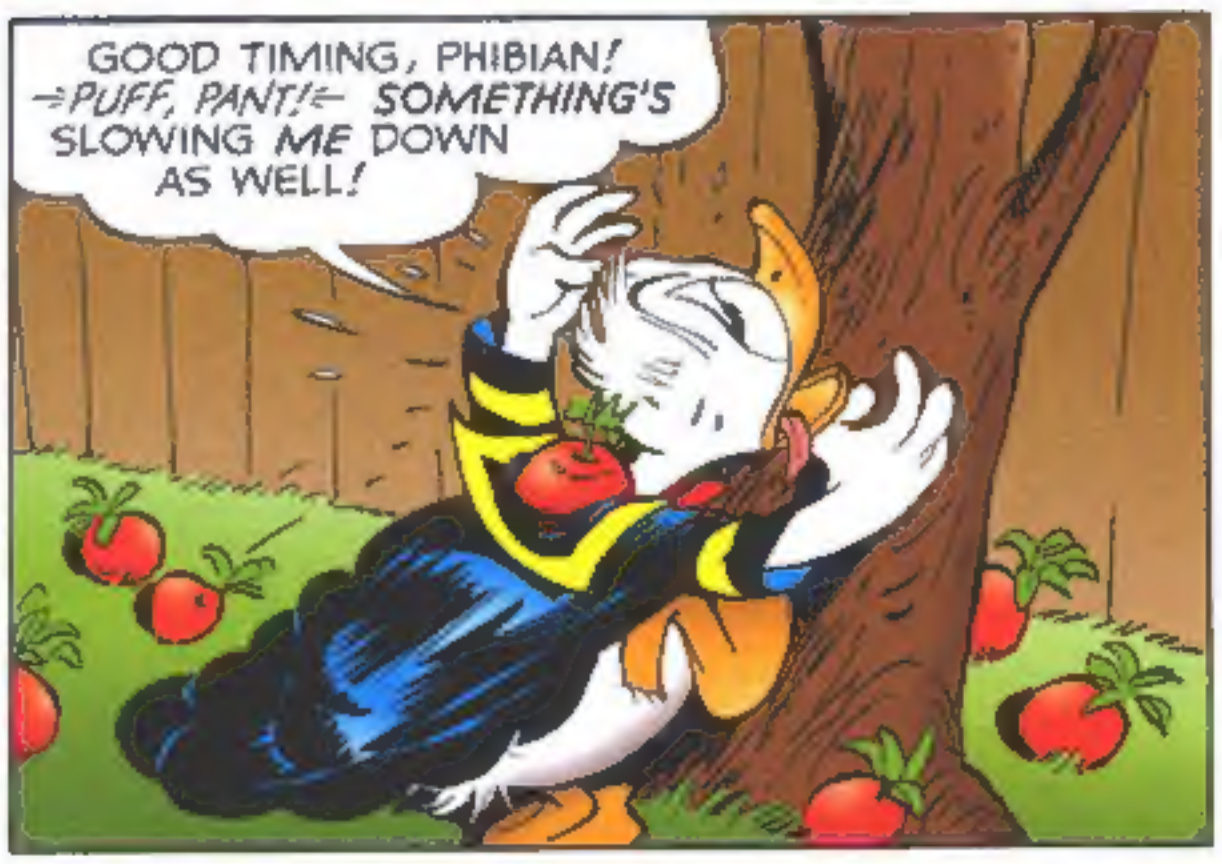

UH-OH! HE'S HOPPING THE FENCE INTO MR. JONES' APPLE TREE!

IF HE ENDS UP IN JONES' YARD, WE'VE LOST HIM FOR GOOD!

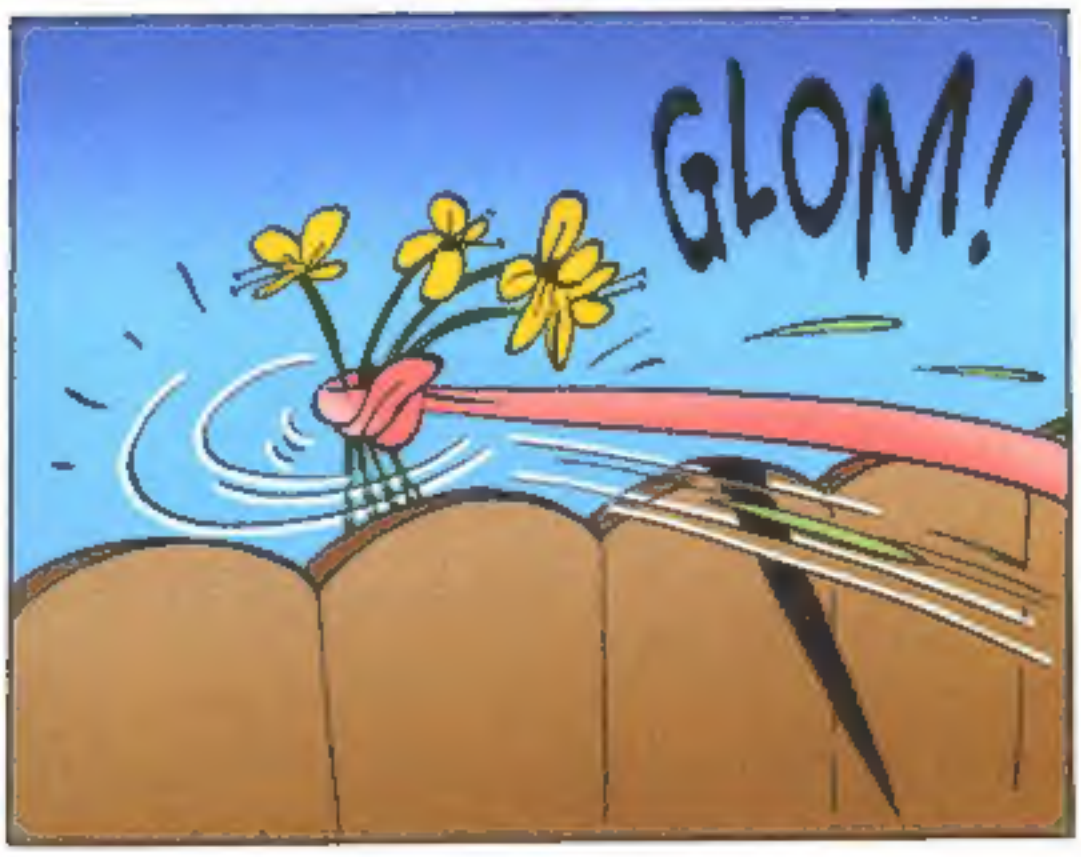

HOP!
HOP!

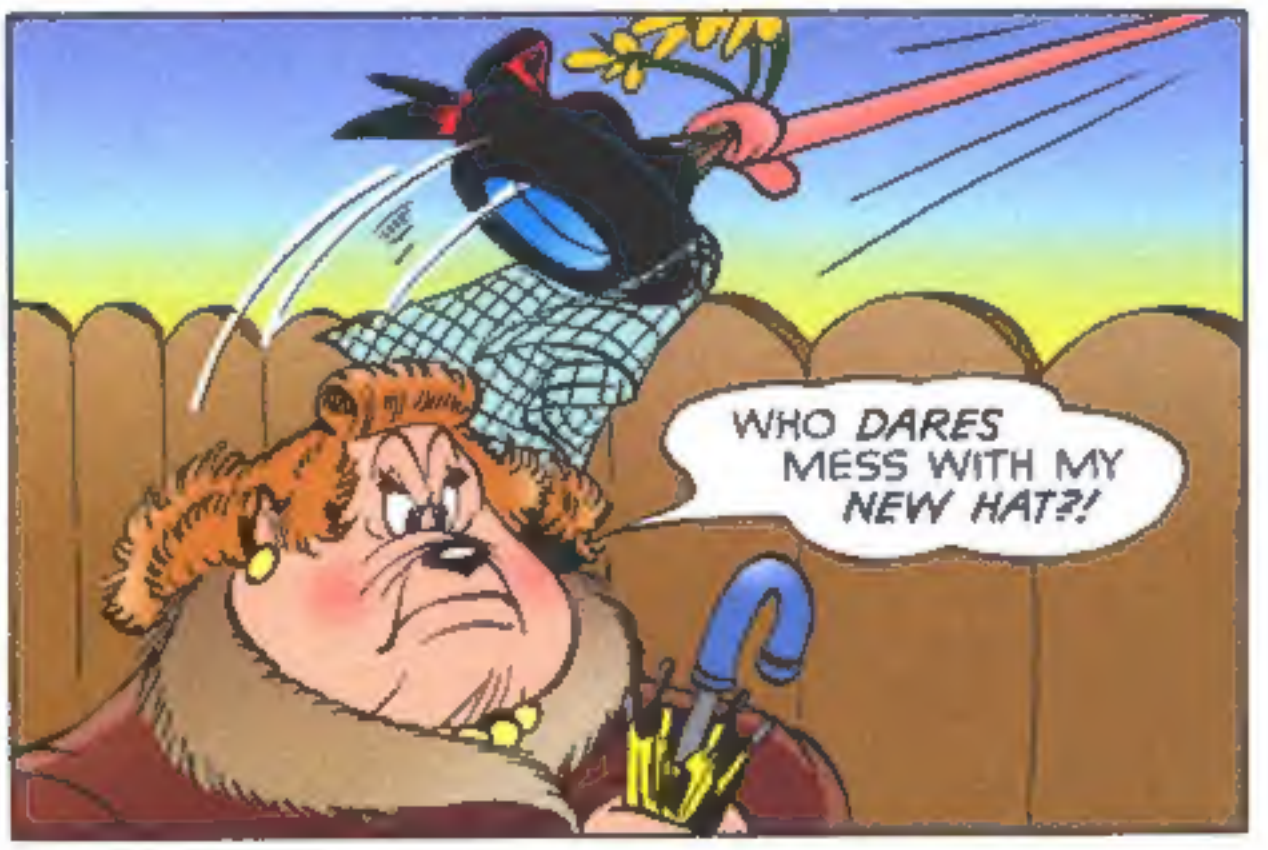

BOP!
BOP!
BOP!
BOP!

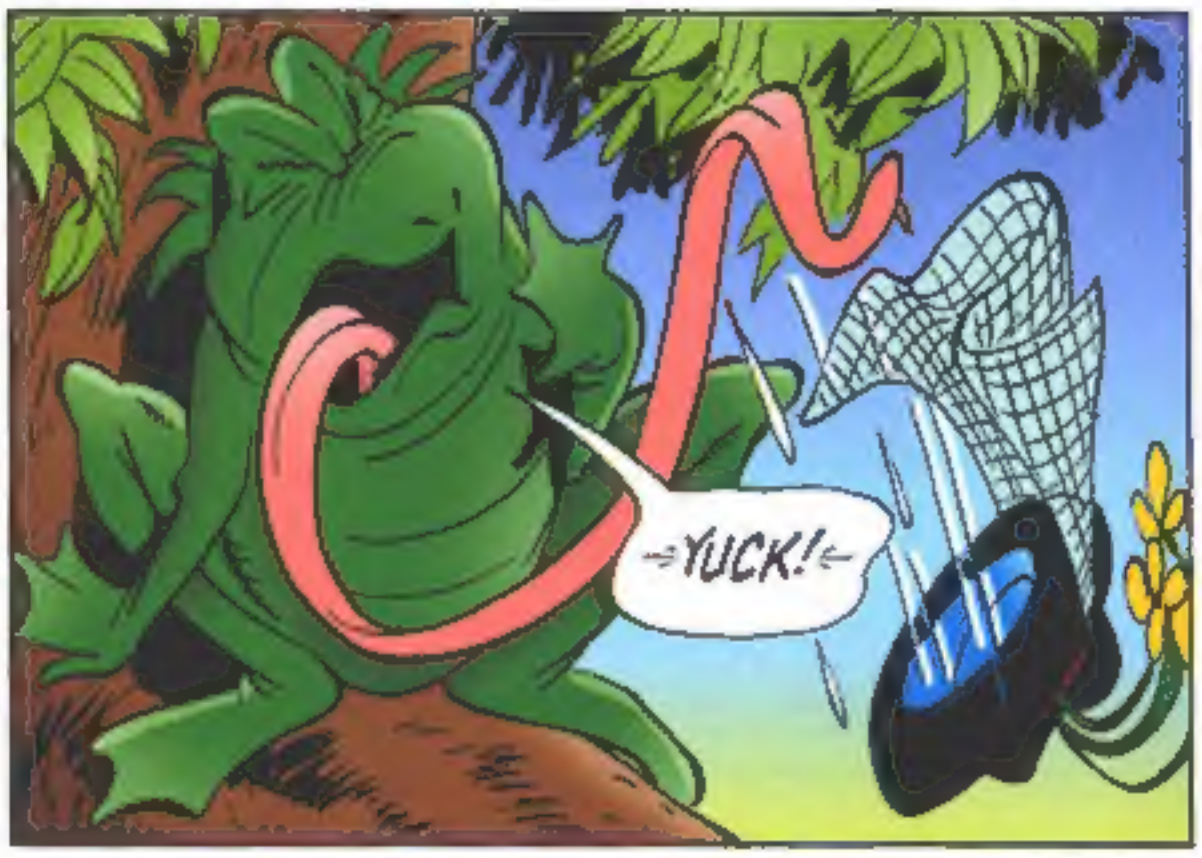

HEY! PHIBIAN HAS SPOTTED SOMETHING!
IT'S SLOW-ING HIM DOWN!

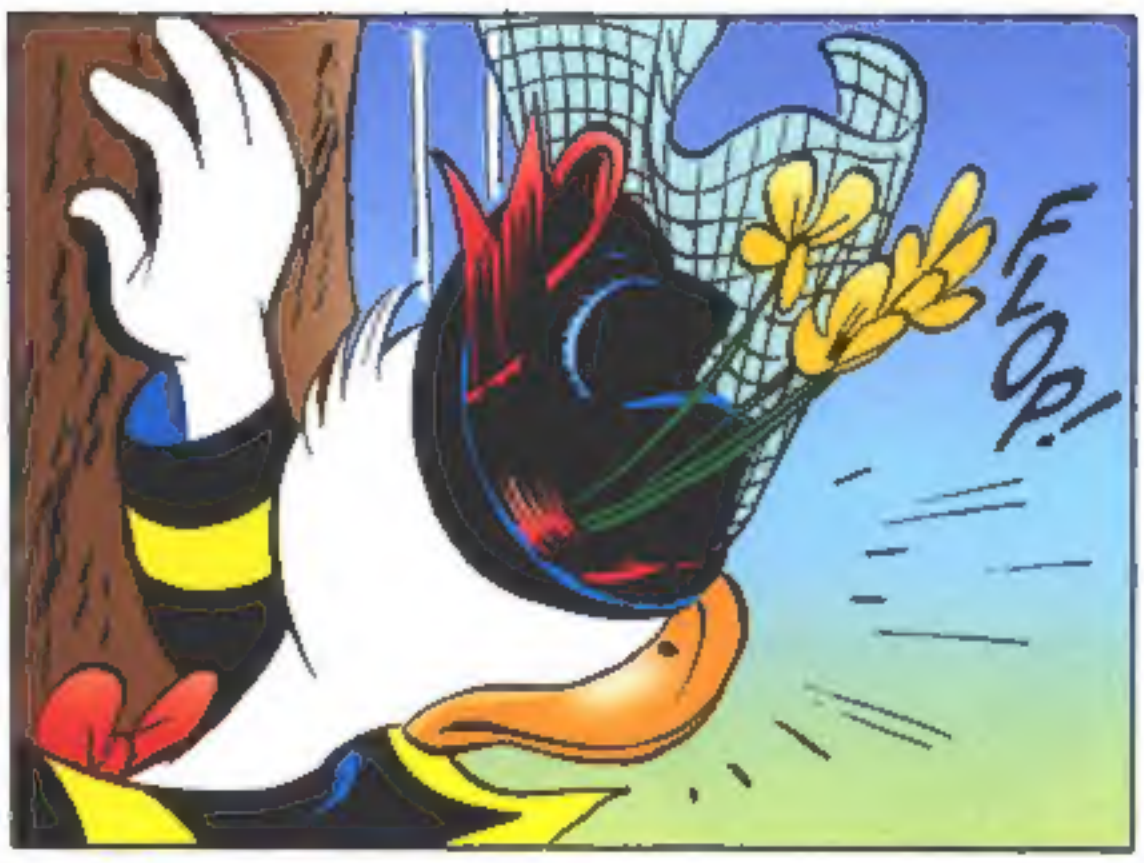

GOOD TIMING, PHIBIAN! =PUFF, PANT!= SOMETHING'S SLOWING ME DOWN AS WELL!

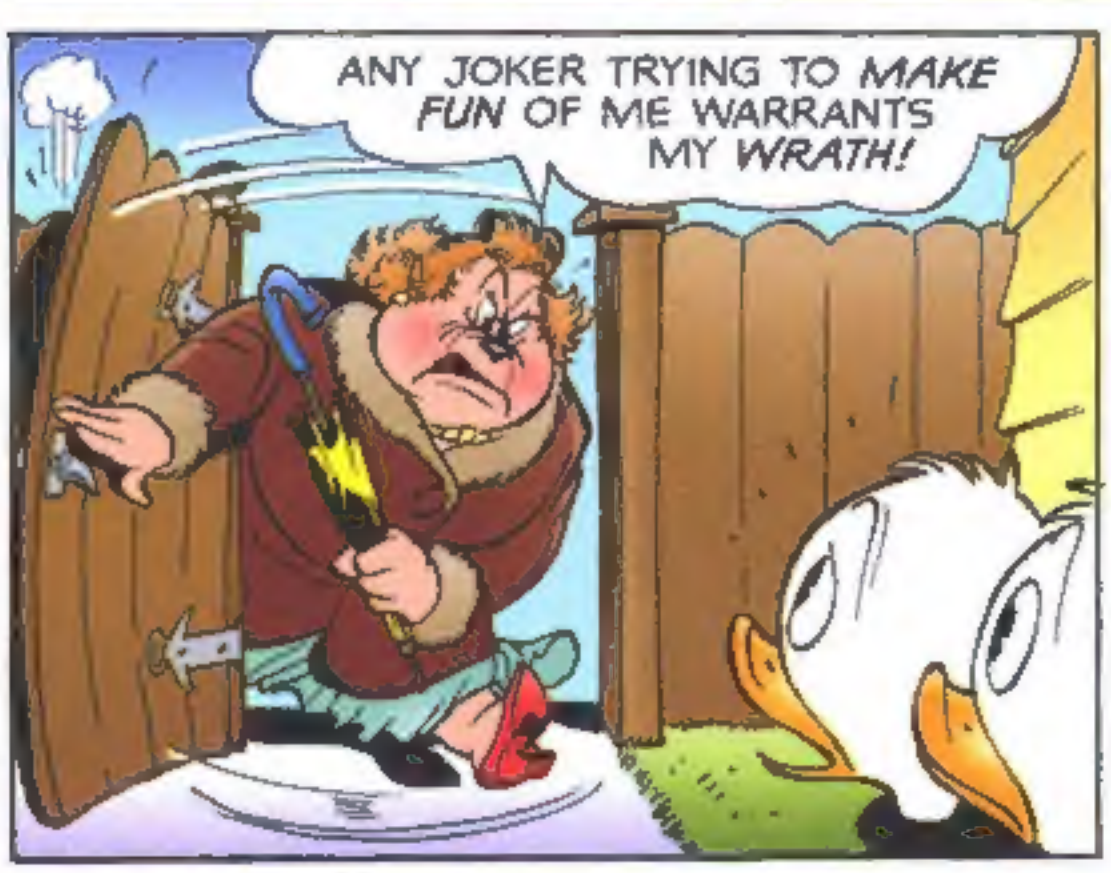
ZAP!

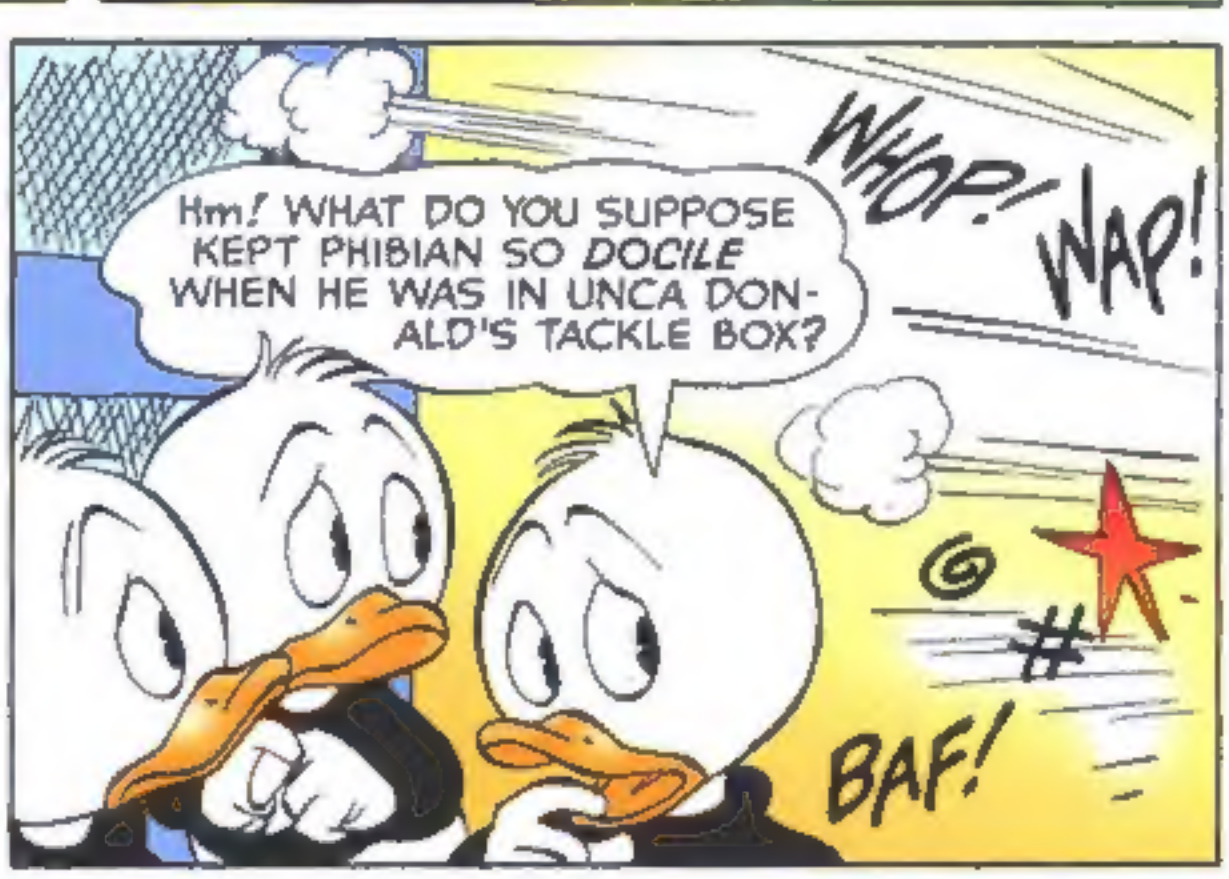

GLOM!

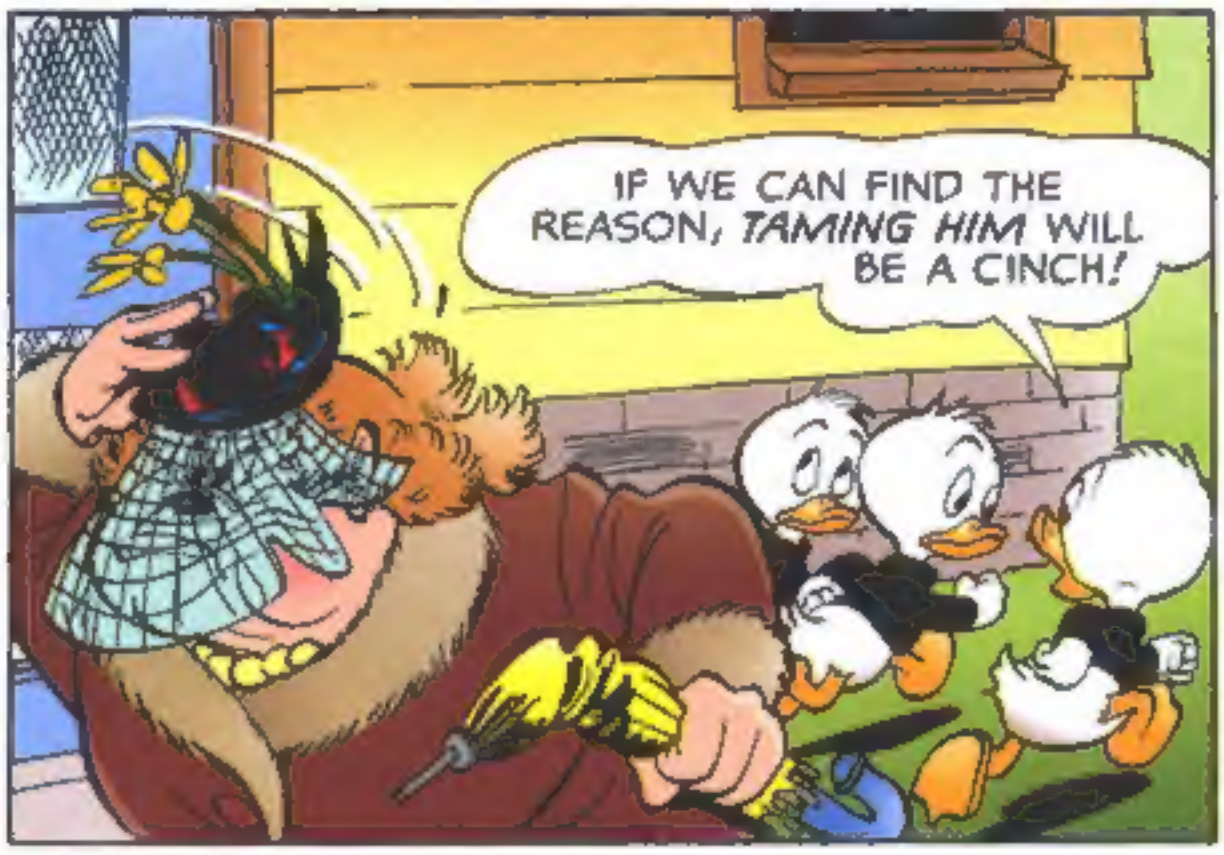

WHO DARES MESS WITH MY NEW HAT?!

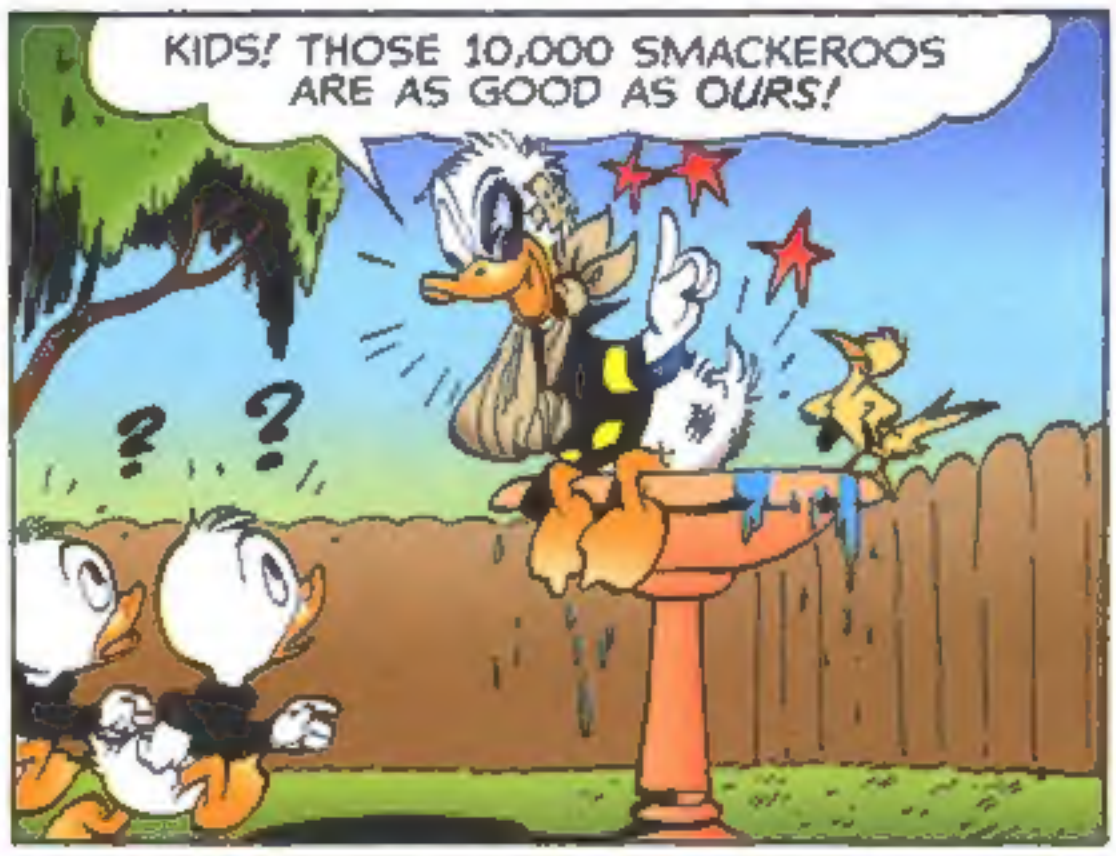

YUCK!

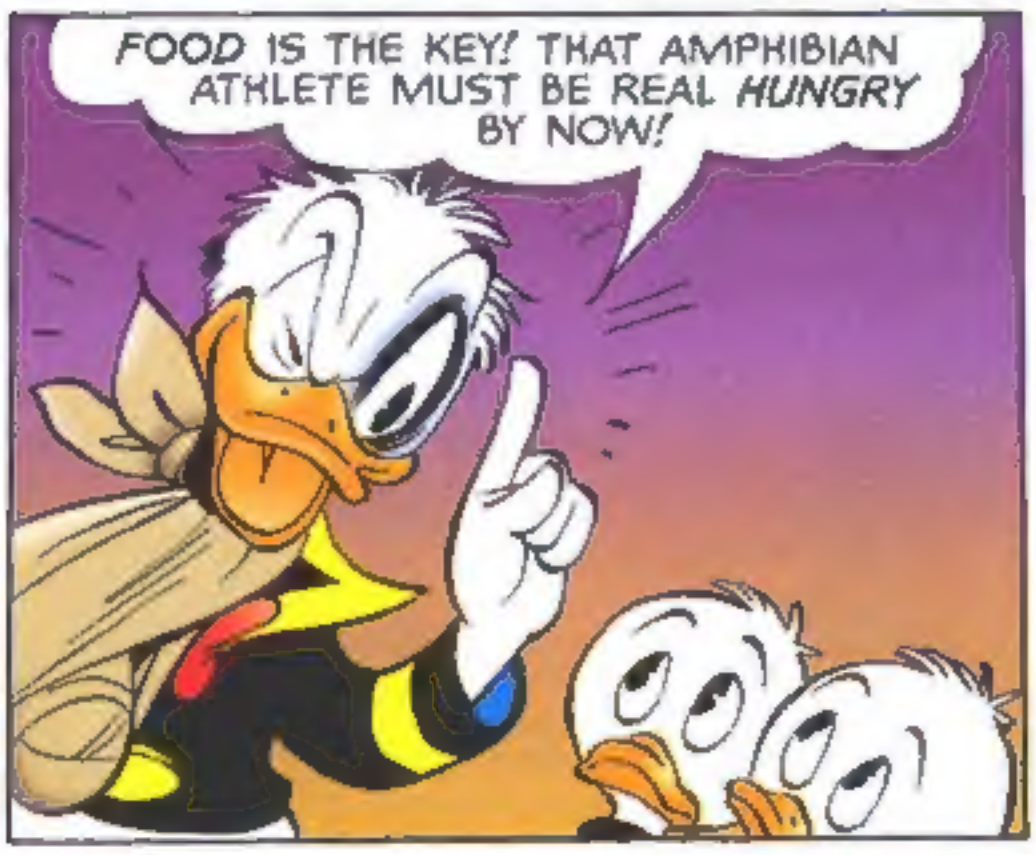

FLOP!

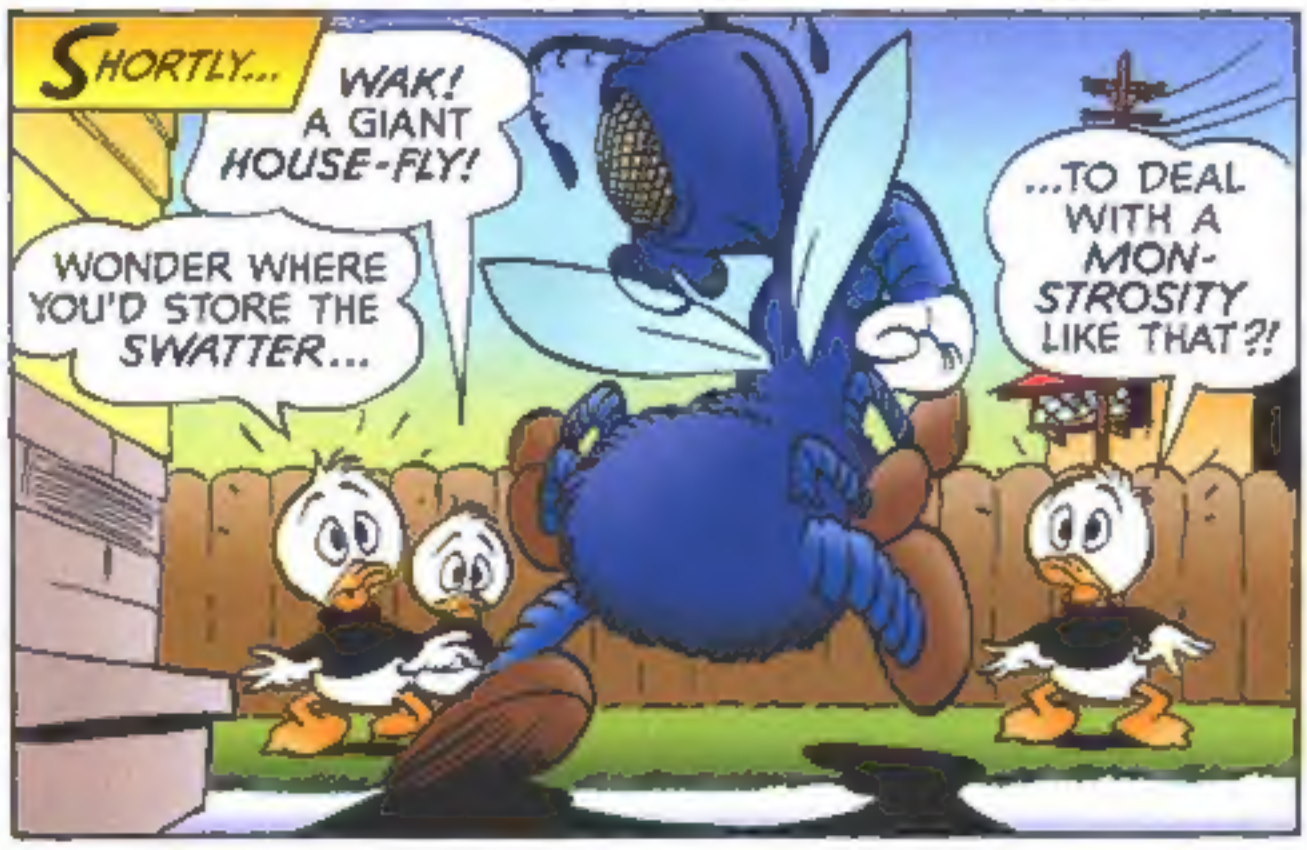

ANY JOKER TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME WARRANTS MY WRATH!


Hm! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE KEPT PHIBIAN SO DOCILE WHEN HE WAS IN UNCA DONALD'S TACKLE BOX?
WHOP!
WAP!
BAF!


IF WE CAN FIND THE REASON, TAMING HIM WILL BE A CINCH!


KIDS! THOSE 10,000 SMACKEROOS ARE AS GOOD AS OURS!


FOOD IS THE KEY! THAT AMPHIBIAN ATHLETE MUST BE REAL HUNGRY BY NOW!


SHORTLY...
WAK! A GIANT HOUSE-FLY!
WONDER WHERE YOU'D STORE THE SWATTER...
...TO DEAL WITH A MONSTROSITY LIKE THAT?!

I REMEMBERED THIS *CARNIVAL SUIT* IN THE ATTIC! IT MUST MAKE ME LOOK *SUCCULENT* ENOUGH FOR PHIBIAN TO START CHASING *ME!*

HE'LL BE ABLE TO *SEE* ME BETTER IF I CLIMB UP *HIGHER!*

CLIK!

ROTATION-RELEASE LEVER

CROAK!

PHIBIAN'S LOCKED IN ON YOU *ALREADY*, UNCA DONALD!

ZIT!

ZOT!

YANK!

BULLS-EYE!

HEY!!! WHOO-AAAAAAAAA!!!

R-RIIP!

NOT VERY *TASTY*, Huh?

⇒UGH!⇐

STOP THIS MERRY-GO-ROUND!!

FLOP!

LOOK AT *PHIBIAN!*

HE'S AS STILL AS A *PILLAR OF SALT!*

AS IF HE'S *HIBERNATING* IN THE RIVER'S MUD!

OR *INSIDE UNCA DONALD'S TACKLE BOX!*

IT'S THE *DARK* THAT PACIFIES HIM!

I'M SURE THAT A MORE *SCIENTIFIC* DISSERTATION ON THE SUBJECT IS WARRANTED, BUT I SAY LET'S TAKE HIM AND GO!

CROAK?

AND THUS, AS THE CLASSICISTS WOULD COMMENT, VENI, VIDI, VICI, MEANING–

ZOW!

THE *WINNER* IS *PHIBIAN!*

THE PRIZE MONEY PROVES ENOUGH TO GET EVERYTHING OUT OF HOCK AND PAY OFF THE BILLS! SO NOW A FRESH START AND A NEW JOB ..

DONALD DUCK

LET'S ALL GET IN THE CAR AND LOOK FOR ONE!

WAK! REMEMBER YOU *EMPTIED* THE TANK WITH A ROUND OF *BUCKSHOT*, UNCA DONALD?

WE NEED IT FIXED *PLUS* A FULL TANK OF GAS!

AND NOT A *PENNY* OF THE PRIZE LEFT! =*GROAN!*=

AND SO–

GIDDYAP, PHIBIAN!

CROAK!

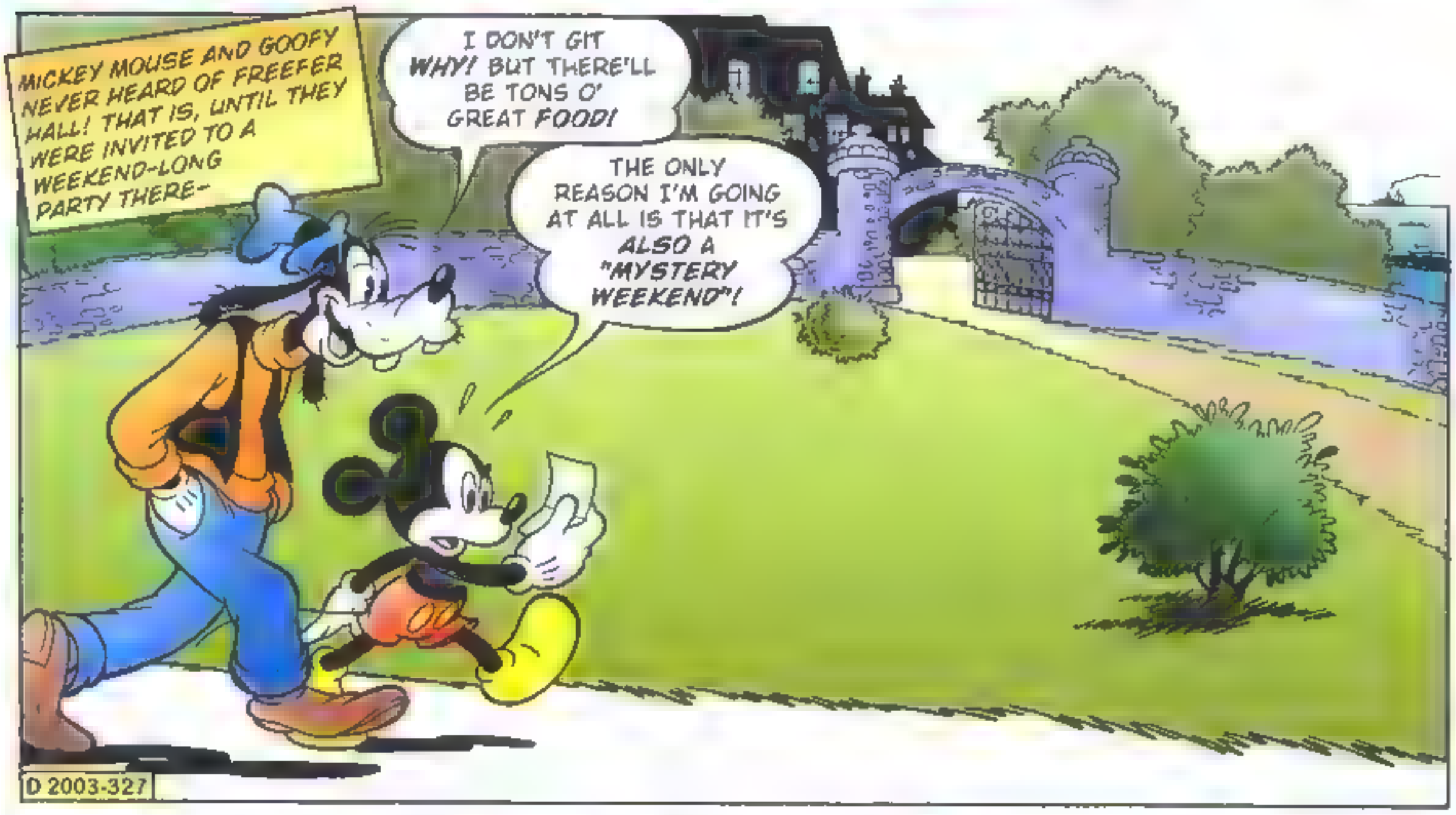
?

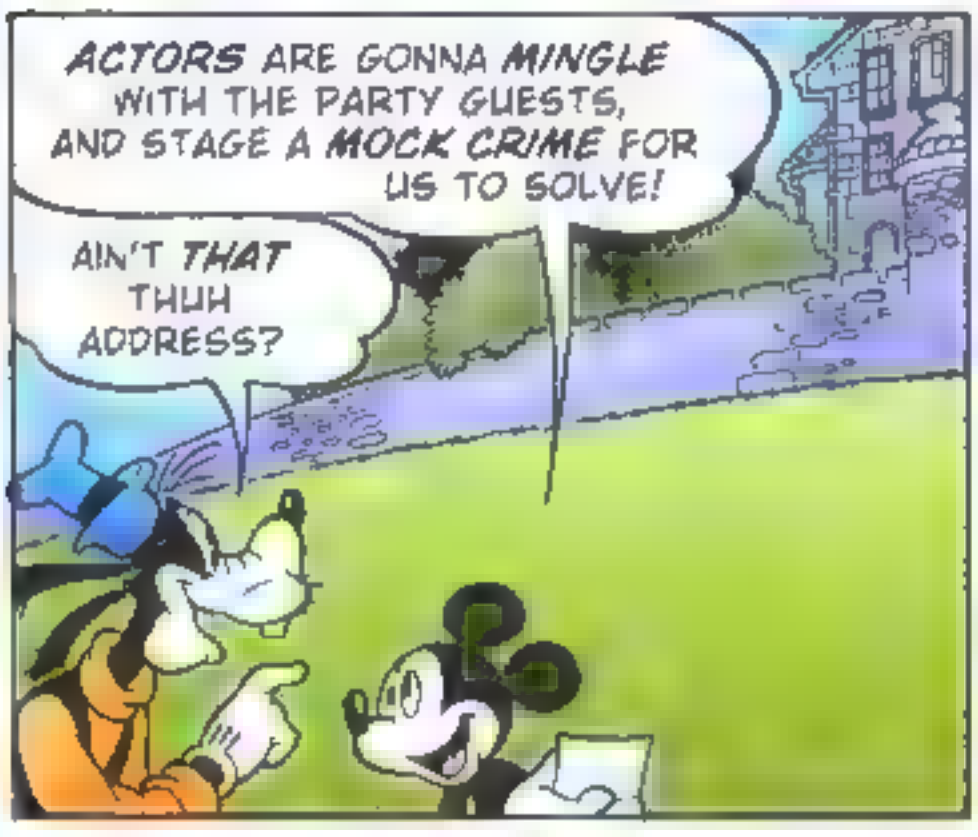
THE END

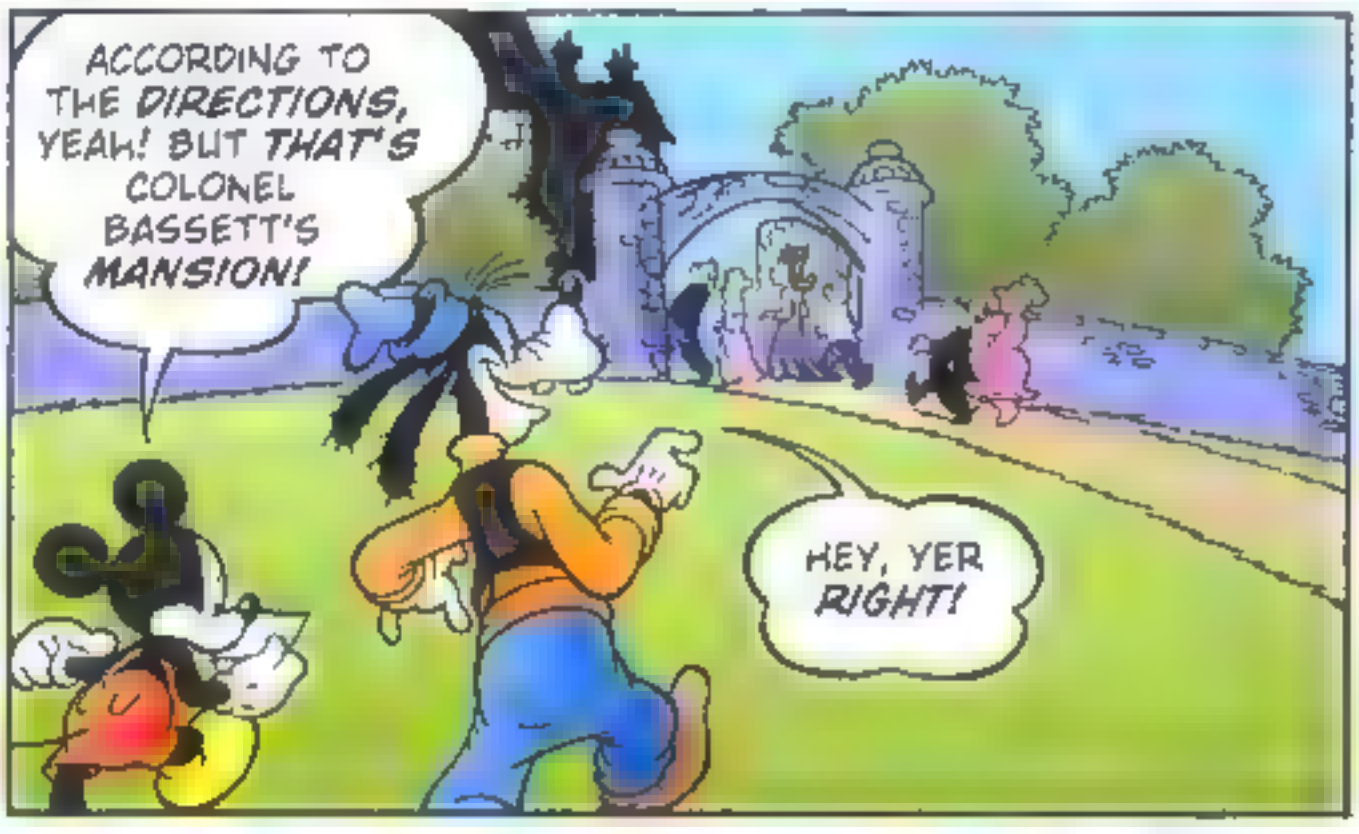
Walt Disney's

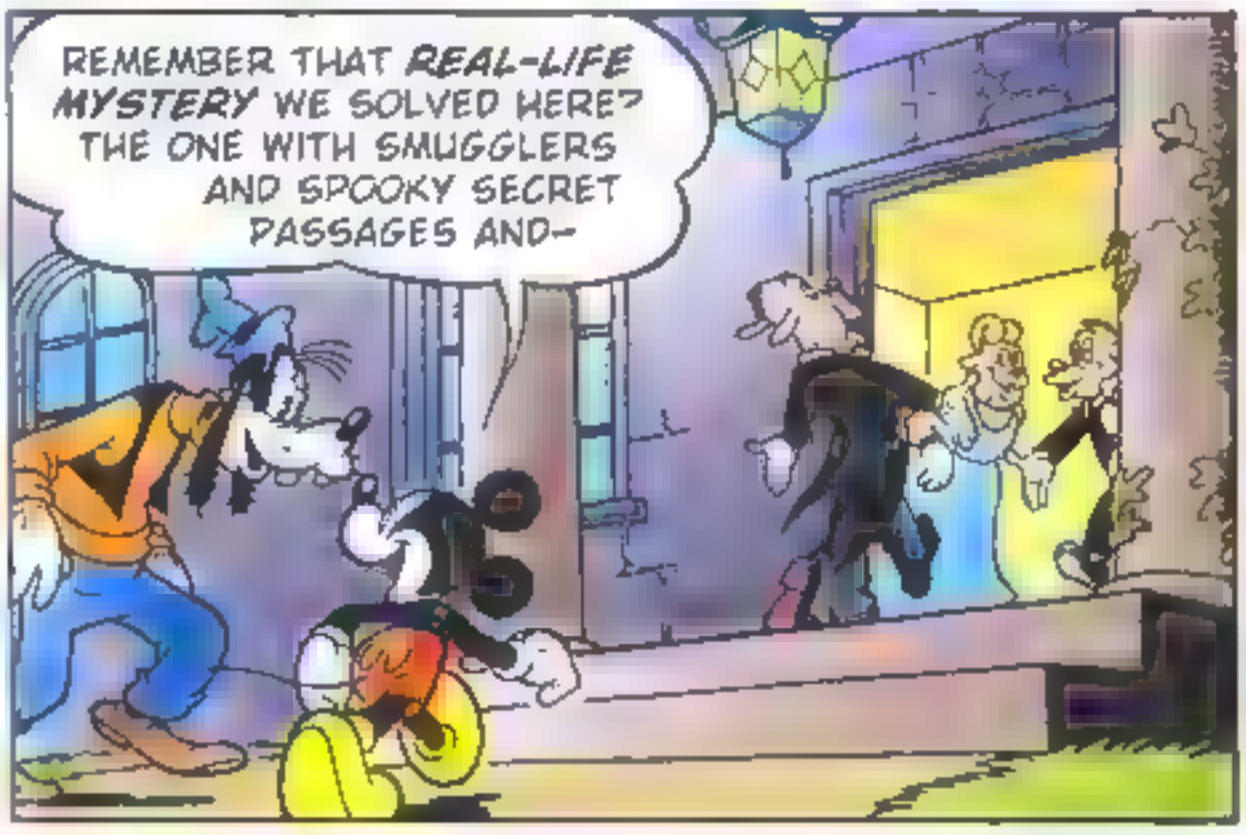
MICKEY MOUSE™

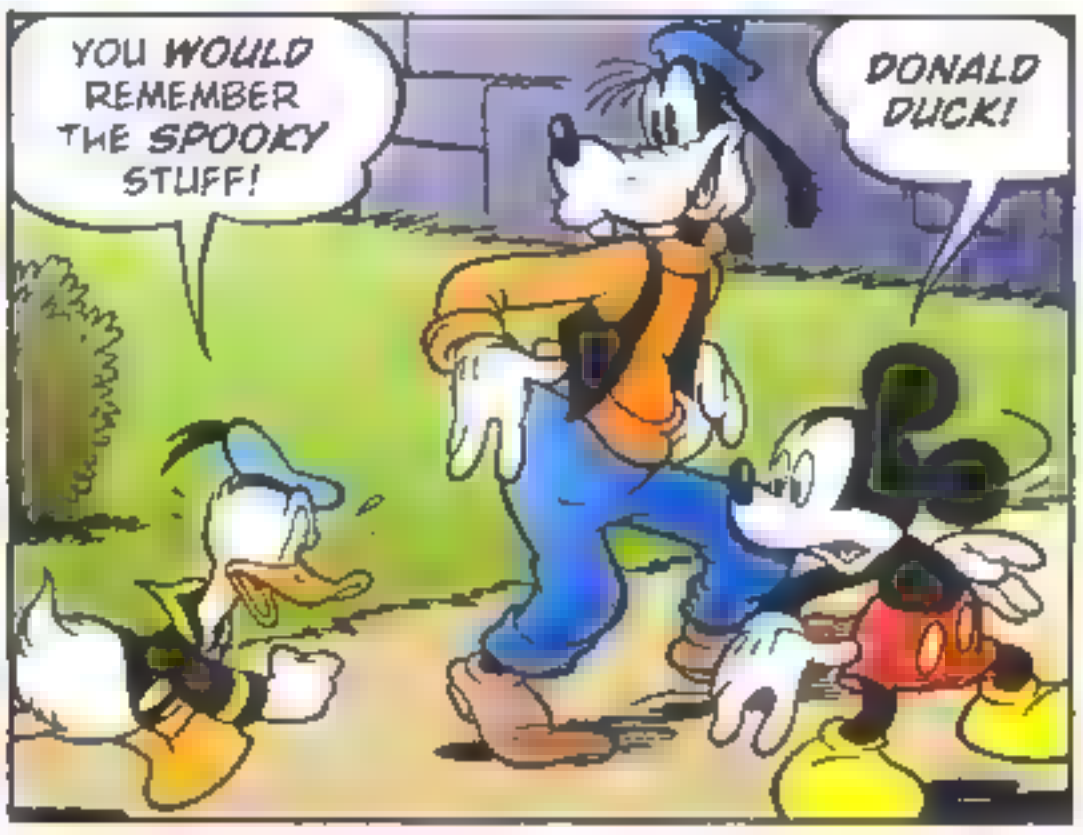
THE MYSTERY OF FREEFER HALL
PART 1


MICKEY MOUSE AND GOOFY NEVER HEARD OF FREEFER HALL! THAT IS, UNTIL THEY WERE INVITED TO A WEEKEND-LONG PARTY THERE-
I DON'T GIT WHY! BUT THERE'LL BE TONS O' GREAT FOOD!
THE ONLY REASON I'M GOING AT ALL IS THAT IT'S ALSO A "MYSTERY WEEKEND"!
D 2003-327









THAT'S ME, ALL RIGHT! BUT IF I'D KNOWN *YOU* WERE COMING, I'D HAVE *STAYED HOME!*

WHY'D THE INVITATION CALL THIS PLACE *"FREEFER HALL"?*

WE WERE WONDERING *THAT* OURSELVES!

-SIGH!- *WHATEVER* IT'S CALLED, THERE'LL BE *TROUBLE* WITH YOU HERE, MICKEY! ALWAYS *DRAGGING* ME INTO *RISKY* ADVENTURES-

EEEEEK! I'VE BEEN *POISONED!*

-ACK!- AND HERE WE GO WITH ONE *ALREADY!*

DON'T BOTHER TO ASSIST "LADY GLOOPCROTTLE," GENTLEMEN!

COLONEL BASSETT!

SHE'LL "RECOVER" IN A FEW MOMENTS! I SAW HER *REHEARSE* THIS SCENE EARLIER!

SO..."LADY GLOOPCROTTLE" IS ONE OF THE *ACTORS* IN THE *STAGED "MYSTERY"!* THAT MEANS MY *GOAL* IS TO FIND OUT *WHO* "POISONED" HER!

BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST! WHY'D YA INVITE US FOR THE WEEKEND, COLONEL?

I WANTED AT LEAST A FEW *FRIENDS* HERE WHO *REMEMBER* THE HOUSE...

...WHEN I WAS →SOB!← *MASTER* OF IT!

THAT'S *RIGHT*, BOYS! PRETTY SOON *I'LL* OWN THE PLACE! FREEFER F. FREEFER, FILMMAKER *EXTRAORDINAIRE!*

I'M *GENEROUSLY* RESCUIN' OL' BASSETT AFTER HE *LOST* ALL HIS MONEY *INVESTIN'* IN ONE O' *MY MYSTERY MOVIES!*

THAT'S *SHOW BIZ*, EH?

AFTER TOMORROW MORNING'S *SIGNING CEREMONY*, THIS *WORTHLESS HEAP* *WILL* BE *MINE*-

EXCUSE ME, SUH! AS A *GENTLEMAN*, I MUST SEE TO THE OTHER GUESTS!

→HMPH!← HE *MIFFED* OR SOME-THIN'?

WELL, HE'LL BE HAPPY WHEN HE GETS MY *MOOLAH*...

...AND EVEN *HAPPIER* AFTER MY *CONSTRUCTION CREW* TRANSFORMS BASSETT MANOR INTO *FREEFER HALL*, A GENTEEL, DIGNIFIED *VEGAS-STYLE HOTEL!*

→URLGH!←

POOR COLONEL BASSETT!

OH, WELL... -SIGH!- YOU GUYS READY TO *SOLVE* THAT "*MYSTERY*"?

IF THAT'S WHAT *YOU'RE* DOING, *I'M* DOING SOMETHING ELSE!

THAR'S THUH *FOOD!*

WHERE'S YER *NEPHEWS*, DON?

AT A JUNIOR WOODCHUCK JAMBOREE! I'M FREE UNTIL MONDAY!

GUESS I WON'T BE GETTING ANY HELP FROM THOSE TWO!

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS...WHICH OF THESE PEOPLE ARE *REAL* PARTY GUESTS, AND WHICH ARE *ACTORS PLAYING* PARTY GUESTS?

FIRST CLUE! *SHE'S* AN ACTOR, SO *THEY'RE* PROBABLY ACTORS TOO!

I'LL STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION AND SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN ABOUT THE "MYSTERY" PLOTLINE!

STRANGE...THAT GUY WITH THE *MONOCLE* AND *MOUSTACHE* SEEMS *FAMILIAR*, SOMEHOW!

THAT'S ODD! DOES *HE* RECOGNIZE *ME*, TOO?

=GULP!=

ER-YOUR LADYSHIP APPEARS TO HAVE RECOVERED, SO I'LL TAKE NO MORE OF YOUR TIME!

=HMM!= *HE'S* SURE IN A HURRY!

INDEED! AND COUNT DECOCO IS *USUALLY* SO SLOW AND METHODICAL!

USUALLY, HUH? SOUNDS LIKE ACCORDING TO THE "MYSTERY" PLOTLINE, SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME WITH THIS GUY!

HAVE YOU KNOWN THE "COUNT" *LONG*, "LADY GLOOPCROTTLE"?

INDEED I *HAVE!* HE'S MY COUSIN'S HUSBAND'S NEPHEW!

IT'S RATHER AN INTERESTING RELATION-SHIP...

...AND HIS *GRANDMOTHER'S* NAME WAS...

...BUT WHEN THE LATE LORD GLOOPCROTTLE HEARD *THIS*...

SO YOU SEE, HER SECOND HUSBAND ISN'T...

...IT'S SO VERY DROLL! HE WOULDN'T *DARE*...

VERY =YAWN! *INTERESTING*, "LADY GLOOPCROTTLE," BUT I, UH...

=MUMBLE! DRONE!=

JUST IN TIME! ANOTHER MINUTE, AND I'D HAVE BEEN BORED TO SLEEP!

HOWDY, MICK! HOW'S THUH "*MYSTERY*" GOIN'?

SEEMS KINDA *DULL*, SO FAR!

=HEH-HEH!= WELL, GRAB SOME *FOOD!* IT'S NOT VERY *EXCITING*, BUT AT LEAST IT *TASTES* GOOD!

=HYUCK!=

GUESS I COULD USE A BITE, AT THAT!

SAY, THERE'S "COUNT DECOCO" AGAIN!

FWOOOF!

=YAAAAGH!=

I *KNOW* THAT MUG FROM *SOMEWHERE!* BUT *WHERE?* AND *WHY* DID HE *AVOID* ME?

TAP TAP

WHOA!

TH-THE *ASH-TRAY!*...=GLUB!= *RIGGED*... =GULP!=

AND THE *DRAPES* IGNITED LIKE THEY'D BEEN DOUSED WITH *GAS!*

=SNORT!= *ARSON!* I TELL YOU, MICKEY, YOU'RE A *DISASTER MAGNET!*

RELAX, DONALD! THE FIRE ISN'T *REAL!* IT'S PART OF THE "MYSTERY" PLOTLINE, LIKE THE FAKE POISONING EARLIER!

THEY'RE USING *CHEMICALS* THAT BURN AT A *VERY LOW TEMPERATURE!*

THE FLAMES CAN'T HURT US-SEE?

YEEEOW! OWCH! OWCH! WOOCH!

!!

MR. FREEFER, THAT FIRE WAS *REAL*... AND *DANGEROUS!* WHOEVER WROTE *THAT* SCENE INTO THE "MYSTERY" COULDA BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE!

NOBODY WROTE IT!

THERE'S *NO FIRE* IN THE MASTER SCRIPT! ONE OF THE ACTORS MUST MERELY HAVE BEEN *IMPROVISING!*

PRETTY *RISKY* IMPROVISING, IF YOU ASK ME!

BUT IT'S A BIG CLUE, ANYWAY! OKAY, GUYS ..ACCORDING TO THE *PLOTLINE*, WOULD "LADY GLOOPCROTTLE'S" POISONER *ALSO* HAVE MOTIVATION TO *BURN* DOWN THIS *MANSION?*

I AIN'T *INT'RESTED* IF THUH MYSTERY AIN'T *REAL*, MICK! THERE'S STILL *FOOD* TA BE ET!

=HMPH!=

IF YOU WANT *CLUES*, WHY NOT CHECK THOSE *SECRET PASSAGES* YOU LIKE SO MUCH?

DON'T BE SILLY, DONALD!

ALMOST NOBODY *KNOWS* ABOUT THE PASSAGES! SO THE ACTORS WOULDN'T...

...BE HIDING CLUES IN THEM!

=HUH!!!?=

AMAZING! I HAD NO *IDEA* THIS HOUSE HAD SECRET PASSAGES!

NEVER MIND THAT! ...A *CLUE* TO THE *FIRE* WAS WHERE *NO GUEST* WOULD *FIND* IT! THAT MEANS THE *FIRE WASN'T SET* AS PART OF THE *"MYSTERY"* PLOTLINE!

WE'RE DEALING WITH A *REAL ARSONIST!*

KEEP YOUR *VOICE* DOWN!

WE *CAN'T* LET THIS LEAK OUT! LAWSUITS...BAD PUBLICITY...→GULP!←

I'LL LET *COLONEL BASSETT* BE THE JUDGE OF THAT! HE *DOES* OWN THIS HOUSE—FOR *NOW*, ANYWAY!

→GRRR!← ALL RIGHT! I SAW HIM WANDERING THIS WAY!

COLONEL BASSETT!

→SNORRRRRK! FP! GUZZLE-GUZZLE!←

WHAT? MY WORD! I MUST HAVE FALLEN *ASLEEP!* WAS THAT *HORRIBLE* PARTY A *DREAM?*

NO, AND IT JUST GOT *MORE HORRIBLE!*

MICKEY EXPLAINS—

...SO WE HAFTA CALL THE *POLICE!*

NO, SUH! IN MY EXPERIENCE, THERE ARE *NO GENTLEMEN* AMONG THE POLICE!

WE SHALL FIND THE ARSONIST *OURSELVES!* FOR NOW, LET HIM *THINK* WE SUSPECT *NOTHING!*

→WHEW!←

→SIGH!← OKAY!

WHERE'D YUH GO, MICK? *MOST* FOLKS HAVE GONE TA *BED!*

I HAVE DIRECTIONS TO OUR ROOM!

THAT "COUNT DECOCO"! HE'S THE *KEY!* IF ONLY I COULD FIGURE OUT WHERE I *KNOW* THAT MUG!

→HUH?!← WHY, THAT'S *EASY!*

REMEMBER THE REAL MYSTERY WE SOLVED HERE ONCE? THAT *POLICE SERGEANT* WHO *BOTCHED* THE CASE?

WELL, *HE'S* "DECOCO"!

THEY *DEMOTED* H.M AFTERWARDS! HE BECAME A BEAT COP IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD!

SERVES H.M RIGHT!

HE DIDN'T THINK SO! THE CLUCK USED TO *EYE* ME *SUSPICIOUSLY* AND MUTTER ABOUT *AMATEURS* MESSING WITH POLICE WORK!

GOSH!

HE *DISAPPEARED* AFTER A COUPLE MONTHS' GOOD THING, TOO, 'CAUSE I *FIGURE* HE WANTED *REVENGE!*

WONDER WHUT THET LIGHT IS OUTSIDE?

REVENGE, EH? SUCH AS- *BURNING DOWN* A HOUSE WITH *US* IN IT?

FELLERS, COME *QUICK!*

HOLY COW!

WE GOTTA GET *OUT* OF HERE!

To Be Continued...

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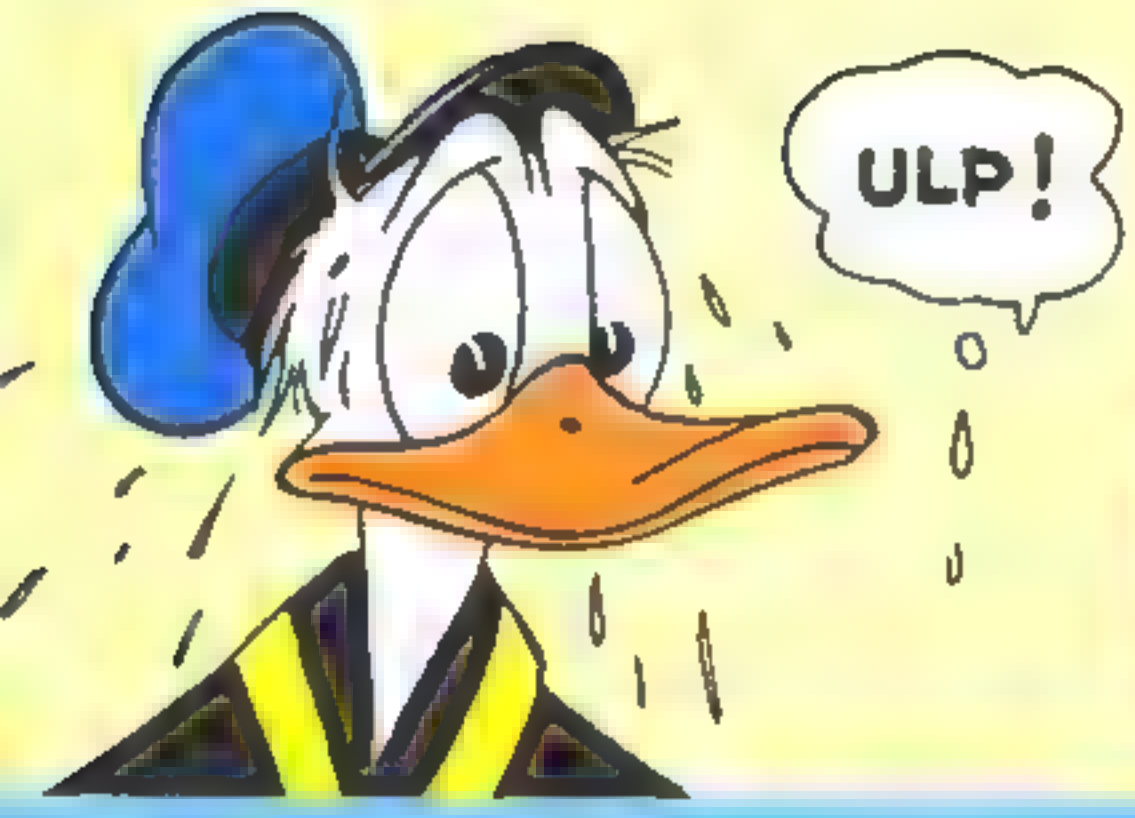

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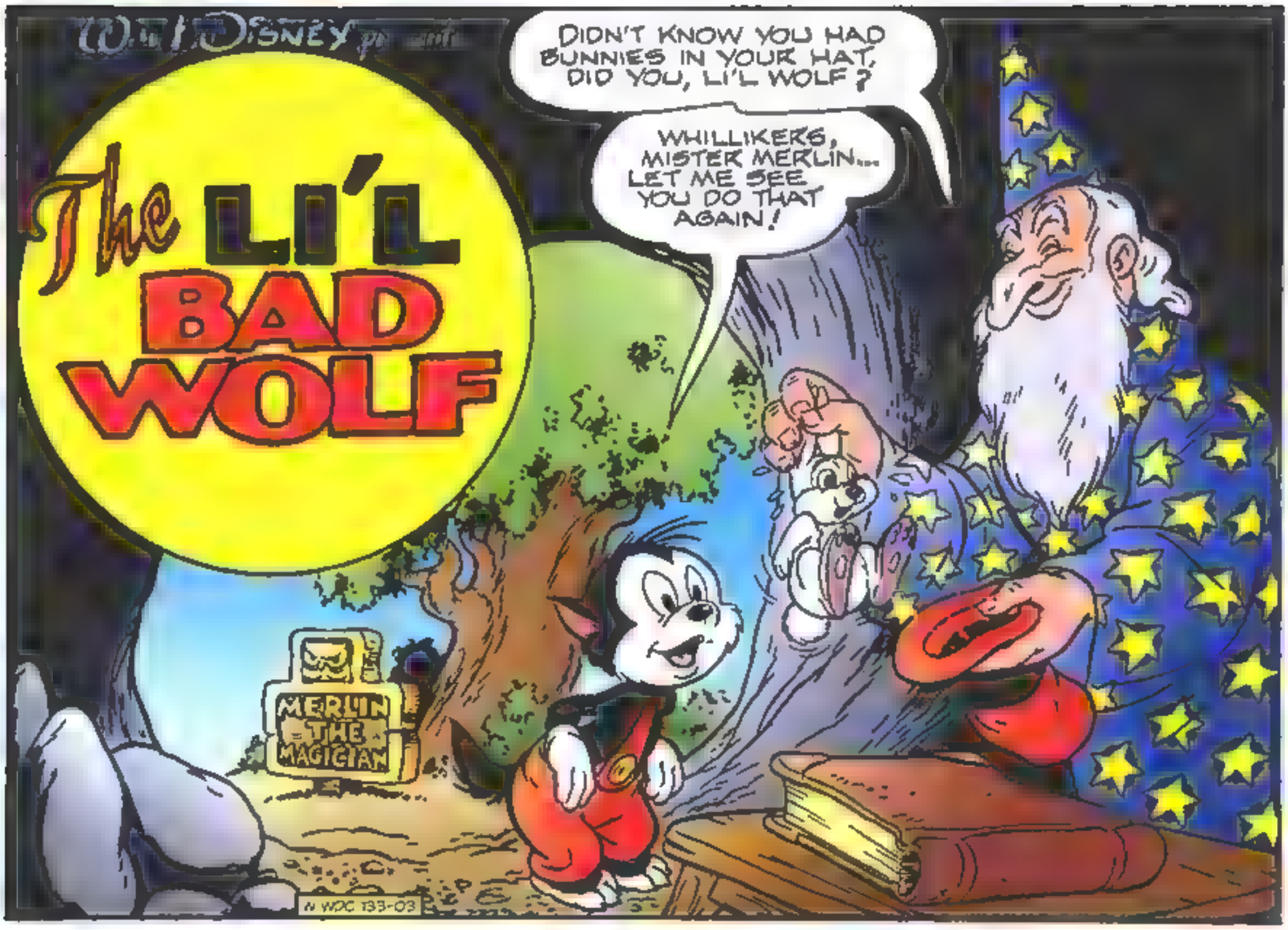
The LI'L BAD WOLF


DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD BUNNIES IN YOUR HAT, DID YOU, LI'L WOLF?
WHILLIKERS, MISTER MERLIN... LET ME SEE YOU DO THAT AGAIN!
MERLIN THE MAGICIAN
THOSE WERE JUST SIMPLE LITTLE TRICKS... BUT I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED THEM!
I SURE DID!
I'D LIKE TO STAY LONGER, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET HOME AND FIX POP'S SUPPER!
AH... BEFORE YOU GO, PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR HAT IS ALL RIGHT, LI'L WOLF!
?
BONK!

WHILLIKERS! I NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN IN MY LIFE!

I'LL BET POP'LL LAUGH LIKE ANYTHING, WHEN I TELL HIM ABOUT THE FROG!

Meanwhile...

HOT DIGGITY! THAT MEANS THAT SOMETHIN' IS CAUGHT IN MY TRAP!

TINKLE!

CLINK!

CLANK!

CLINK!

KLANK!

MAYBE IT'S A BUNNY... OR, IF I'M LUCKY, ONE O' THEM PIGS!

TINKLE!

CLINK!

WHAT TH' DINGDONG...? IT'S LI'L WOLF!

POP! GET ME OUT OF HERE!

ALL THAT CLATTERIN' HAS PROBABLY SCARED OFF EVERY CRITTER AROUND HERE!

POP! YOU WEREN'T PLANNING TO **TRAP** SOME POOR, LI'L CREATURE, WERE YOU?

SURE, I WAS! AN' INCIDENT'LY... WHERE HAVE **YOU** BEEN ALL AFTERNOON?

OH, I'VE HAD **MORE FUN**... I'VE BEEN WATCHING MISTER MERLIN DO **TRICKS!**

Y'MEAN, THAT OLD FELLER THAT'S S'POSED TO BE A MAGICIAN?

YES, POP!

HE PULLED RABBITS OUT OF MY HAT, AND...

HE **WHAT?**

HE PULLED **RABBITS** OUT OF MY HAT!

THERE AIN'T NONE IN HERE NOW! WHAT'D HE **DO** WITH 'EM?

OH... HE JUST DOES IT FOR TRICKS... THEN HE TURNS THEM **LOOSE!**

HOW **DISGUSTIN'!**

LATER...

OKAY, POP! SUPPER'S READY NOW!

HE'S GONE! THAT'S FUNNY... HE WAS HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO!

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHERE HE COULD HAVE GONE!

OH! HERE HE COMES NOW... AND HE SEEMS TO BE **HOLDING** SOMETHING BEHIND HIS BACK!

TUM DE DUM

POP! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I SNUCK IN AN' SNITCHED ONE OF TH' WIZARD'S **MAGICAL BOOKS!**

HEE, HEE!

POP! YOU DIDN'T!

SURE! NOW, IF I CAN FIND OUT HOW HE PRODUCES BUNNIES OUT OF HATS...

A BOOK LIKE THAT COULD BE AWFUL **DANGEROUS**, IF IT FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, POP!

IT'S GONNA BE AWFUL DANGEROUS FER SOME BUNNIES!

HEE, HEE!

LEGBEE, NOW... HERE'S ONE OF HIS MAGICAL RECIPES THAT MIGHT WORK!

NOPE! THERE AIN'T ANY RABBITS IN TH' HAT!

MUST BE TH' WRONG FORMULA! I'LL TRY SOMETHIN' ELSE!

?

HOW DE DOODY, LI'L WOLF! WHAT'S YOUR POP COGITATIN' ON?

HE'S STUDYIN' MAGIC TRICKS, BRER BEAR!

ZIGGITY! I JES' LOVES TO WATCH MAGICAL TRICKS!

I AIN'T DOIN' IT TO ENTERTAIN ANYBODY... I'M TRYIN' TO PULL RABBITS OUT OF A HAT... FOR EATIN' PURPOSES!

MAN! I LIKE TO SEE THAT!

A POX ON YOU, BRER BEAR!

URK!

POP! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! I TOLD YOU THAT BOOK WAS DANGEROUS TO FOOL WITH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS THAT I DID T'MAKE IT HAPPEN!

MISSUS BEAR IS GOING TO BE AWFUL MAD, IF YOU CAN'T SNAP HIM OUT OF IT!

I CAN'T FIGGER IT OUT! ALL I DID WAS SAY, "A POX ON YOU," AN'...

POP! NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

OH, DEAR! POP CAN'T SNAP BRER BEAR OUT OF IT NOW, 'CAUSE HE NEEDS SNAPPING OUT HIMSELF!

THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN TO DO IT... MERLIN, THE MAGICIAN!

I'LL HAVE TO SHOVE BRER BEAR TO ONE SIDE TO OPEN THE DOOR!

JEEPERS! THE SUCTION PULLED HIM RIGHT OUTSIDE!

BRER BEAR! COME BACK!

BRER BEAR'S BLOWING AWAY WITH THE AUTUMN LEAVES... BUT I'VE GOT MY OWN POP TO THINK OF!

I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO MISTER MERLIN, QUICK!

I CAN TAKE HIM... AND DELIVER THE BOOK AT THE SAME TIME!

THIS WIND IS GETTING SO STRONG... I DON'T THINK I CAN HOLD POP DOWN MUCH LONGER!

AT LEAST, THIS WILL KEEP HIM FROM BLOWING AWAY!

WHILLIKERS! I'VE HAD POP ALL MY LIFE... I HOPE MISTER MERLIN CAN DO SOMETHING!

And so...

AH, YES... HE MUST HAVE GOT INTO THE CHAPTER ON SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

CLAP!

DON'T WORRY ANY MORE, LI'L WOLF! YOUR FATHER WILL BE ALL RIGHT, NOW!

?

WUMP!

DON'T FORGET BRER BEAR, TOO... HE'S FLOATING AROUND, GOODNESS KNOWS WHERE!

CLAP!

POPPA!?

?

IT ALL STARTED BECAUSE POP WANTED TO PULL BUNNIES OUT OF A HAT, LIKE YOU!

HM-MM...

I CAN'T SEE ANY HARM IN IT... SO I'LL TELL YOU, AND YOU CAN TELL YOUR FATHER HOW IT'S DONE!

LATER...

GOSH! IS THAT ALL THERE IS TO IT?

IT WORKS! I CAN FEEL HIS EARS!

AFTER ALL, POP... YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT'S A BUNNY!

V-R-R-R

WR-R!

YEAH, I KNOW... BUT IT AIN'T TH' EATIN' KIND!

BAH!

Walt Disney's

MICKEY MOUSE™

THE MYSTERY OF FREEFER HALL PART 2

MICKEY, DONALD AND GOOFY ARE AT FREEFER HALL FOR A "MYSTERY WEEKEND" - WHERE ACTORS STAGE A CRIME AND GUESTS MUST SOLVE THE "MYSTERY"! BUT THERE'S TROUBLE AFOOT! FREEFER HALL WAS ONCE BASSETT MANOR, WHERE MICKEY BEAT A POLICE SERGEANT TO SOLVING A REAL MYSTERY! THE EX-SERGEANT IS AMONG THE ACTORS STAGING THE "MYSTERY WEEKEND"! AND NOW A VERY REAL ARSONIST TARGETS THE OLD MANSION... AN ARSONIST WHO SHARES MICKEY'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRET PASSAGES WITHIN THE HOUSE-

GOOD THING PEOPLE SAW THE FIRE SOON ENOUGH TO TAKE ACTION!

YUP! IT'S ALL *UNDER CONTROL* NOW!

D 2003-327

LET ME CHECK A HUNCH! THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE ENTRANCE RIGHT HERE!

JUST LIKE THE *OTHER* FIRE! THEY'RE *CONNECTED*, ALL RIGHT!

THAT'S IT! I'M GOING *HOME!*

→GULP!←

BUT *THINK*, DONALD! IF *WE* LEAVE, WHO'LL *PROTECT COL. BASSETT?*

PHOOEY!

IF *HE* ISN'T SCARED, WHY SHOULD *WE* BE?

→GLORK! *SNOZZLE!* GRUP!←

MORNING–

I SAY, WHAT ABOUT THAT *FIRE*, EH?

NEVER MIND THE *FIRE*, WHERE'S *LADY GLOOP-CROTTLE?*

SHE'S USUALLY *FIRST IN LINE* FOR BREAKFAST!

"LADY GLOOPCROTTLE"! BACK TO THE IDIOT *STAGED MYSTERY* AND ITS FOOL CHARACTERS!

=EEP!=

AND THE *NOT-SO-FOOLISH* CHARACTER! =SNORT!= "COUNT DECOCO"... SERGEANT YESTERDAY, ACTOR TODAY!

I'M EVER SURER HE'S THE ARSONIST! LOOK HOW HE'S *AVOIDING* US!

AND TALK ABOUT *AVOID-ING...*

IT'S *IMPOLITE* TO DO BUSINESS OVER *BREAKFAST,* SUH! I'M GOING *BACK TO BED!*

POOR OL' COLONEL BASSETT! FREEFER'S TRYIN' TA MAKE 'IM SIGN OVER HIS MANSION EARLY!

LUCKY FOR HIM THE COLONEL'S A *GENTLEMAN!* ME, I'D SCREAM AT THE TOP OF MY–

YEEEEEEEEEEK!!

?!

AN *ELK HEAD TROPHY* HAS *FALLEN* ON *LADY GLOOPCROTTLE!* SHE'S BEEN *IMPALED ON ITS ANTLERS!*

AW, IT'S JUST THE *"MYSTERY"* AGAIN! NOBODY'S *REALLY* HURT...

I'M A *DOCTOR!* I'LL SEE IF I CAN *HELP* HER!

UH-OH!

UM- I'LL COME *ALONG* AND HELP *TOO!*

BUT MICK! *NOBODY'S REALLY HURT!*

GOOFY, I'M *SUSPICIOUS* OF THAT "DOCTOR'S" INTEREST!

HE AND "GLOOPCROTTLE" WERE *WITH* "DECOCO" RIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST FIRE! IF "DECOCO'S" THE ARSONIST, *THEY* MIGHT BE IN ON IT *TOO! THIS* MAY BE A BLIND FOR A *RECONNAISSANCE MEETING!*

WAIT HERE! I MUST BE *UNHAMPERED* AS I EXAMINE LADY GLOOPCROTTLE!

SEE? A MEETING, AND HE DOESN'T WANT ME SNOOPING ON IT!

OR MAYBE HIS WARNIN' WAS PART O' HIS *ACT...*

I'LL JUST SNOOP *ANYWAY!*

WHAP

I'LL CATCH THE "DOCTOR" AND "GLOOPCROTTLE" M.D-CONSPIRACY AND *MAKE* 'EM SPILL THE BEANS! THEY-

WHAT? OH, IT'S *YOU*, IS IT? WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

HUH? WHERE'S "GLOOPCROTTLE"?

YOU'RE SNOOPING BEHIND THE SCENERY, YOUNG MAN! THE *ACTRESS* PLAYING LADY GLOOPCROTTLE WENT HOME LAST NIGHT!

-:ULP!:-

IN A MOMENT I'LL ANNOUNCE HER *CHARACTER* HAS BEEN *MURDERED*! ANY QUESTIONS?

ER, UH... *NO!*

-:SIGH!:- OKAY, SO I GOT CARRIED AWAY!

-:HUH?:- WHAT'S *THIS?*

A *FUSE!* THE *ARSONIST'S* SET UP A HOMEBREWED *INCENDIARY DEVICE!*

I'D BETTER SEE WHERE IT LEADS!

CRUDE BUT EFFECTIVE! THESE NEW YEAR'S FIRECRACKERS *IGNITE* FUEL AND ***SPREAD*** IT AT THE SAME TIME! THEN THE FUSE CONTINUES, NO DOUBT TO ANOTHER LIKE IT!

"SO I'LL JUST FOLLOW THE TRAIL, AND DEFUSE THEM ALL!"

THERE! LAST ONE-

YAAAAAAGGHH!

WHOOF!

@#%!! WHILE I WAS DISABLING DEVICES IN *THIS* DIRECTION, I DIDN'T EVEN *THINK* OF THE ONES GOING THE ***OTHER*** WAY!

NOW WE'VE GOT ANOTHER FIRE, AND- UH-OH! "DECOCO'S" ***NOTICED*** ME AGAIN!

I'M *LEAVING!* THIS S THE *THIRD FIRE!*

SOMEBODY SHOULD CALL THE *POLICE!*

HE'S ESCAPING INTO A SECRET PASSAGE! DOGGONE, THAT *CLINCHES* IT!

DONALD! GOOFY! GET "DECOCO"! HE DID IT!

AND HE COULDA TAKEN ANY ONE OF THESE PATHS! WE'LL HAVE TO *SPLIT UP!*

OKAY, MICK!

IT'S AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT-- BUT ALL RIGHT!

I JUST HOPE *ONE* OF US CATCHES HIM BEFORE HE *STARTS* ANY MORE *FIRES!*

DO I HEAR *FOOT-STEPS* AHEAD?

GULP

GULP

-URK!-

GOTCHA!

ALL RIGHT! YOU'VE GOT ME! I'LL CONFESS!

SWELL! LET'S HEAR IT!

...LINES OF SUCCESSION...OBSCURE LINEAGE IN MY ANCESTRY...IN LINE TO INHERIT...NOBODY KNOWS...ALL THAT STOOD IN MY WAY...

WHAT *IS* THIS?

MY MOTIVE FOR *KILLING LADY GLOOPCROTTLE*, OF COURSE!

NEVER MIND *THAT!* WHAT ABOUT SETTING THOSE *FIRES* AS *REVENGE* FOR YOUR *POLICE DEMOTION?*

WHAT? OH... =HA-HAHA-HAR!=

HEY! WHAT THE HECK...

IS *THAT* WHY YOU WERE CHASING ME? BY "HE DID IT," I THOUGHT YOU'D FINGERED ME AS THE *MURDERER* IN THE *"MYSTERY" PLOTLINE!*

MOUSE, WHO CARES ABOUT *REVENGE?* I PUT MY DEMOTION BEHIND ME AGES AGO!

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU MEAN-

OH, DON'T GET ME WRONG! I *WAS* PEEVED AT *FIRST,* BUT GOT OVER IT ONCE I MADE SUCH A SUCCESS OF *ACTING!*

THEN WHY HAVE YOU BEEN *AVOIDING* ME AND MY FRIENDS?

TO *STAY IN CHARACTER* FOR THE *"MYSTERY"!* I'D AVOID *ANYONE* WHO KNEW THE REAL ME!

WELL, "LADY GLOOPCROTTLE'S MURDER" REMAINS *UNSOLVED,* SO I'M HEADING BACK! COMING?

NO HARD FEELINGS, I HOPE!

=GRUMBLE! GRUMBLE!=

WE *MUST* GET TOGETHER SOON, TO *TALK ABOUT OLD TIMES!*

YEAH, SURE!

EVERYONE, PLEASE *REMAIN CALM!* WE JUST HAVE A FEW *ROUTINE* QUESTIONS!

THIS IS *NO WAY* TO TREAT A *GENTLEMAN!* IT'S AN *OUTRAGE,* SUH!

NEVER MIND *OUTRAGE,* BASSETT! TIME TO SIGN THE MANSION OVER TO ME!

YOU MIGHT AT *LEAST* GIVE ME TIME TO *DRESS,* Suh!

QUIET, *ALL* O' YEH! COLONEL, *WHERE WERE YE* DURIN' THE FIRE, AN' *WHAT* D.D YE SEE?

HYUK! CHIEF, THUH COLONEL'S BEEN *ASLEEP* DUR.N' *ALL* THUH FIRES!

WE *SAW* 'IM GO BACK TA BED AT *BREAKFAST* TIME! HE COULDN'T O' SEEN *NOTHIN'*...

...'LESS, O'COURSE, HE WAS *SLEEP-WALKIN'!*

THAT'S *IT!* GOOFY, YOU'RE A GENIUS! COLONEL BASSETT SET THE FIRES *IN HIS SLEEP*, SUBCONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO KEEP *THIS* VULGARIAN FROM *GETTING HIS MANSION!*

AHEM!

IT'S- IT'S *TRUE!* I NOW RECALL *DREAMS* IN WHICH I DID *EXACTLY THAT!*

BUILDING... MAKESH FT FIRESTARTERS IN SOME DREAMS, SUH... ACTIVATING THEM IN OTHERS...

SO NOW- IN ADDITION TO *LOSING MY HOME*, I MUST UNDERGO THE *INDIGNITY* OF *ARREST FOR ARSON!*

AH, *CAN IT!* *DREAMS* AIN'T *PROOF!*

AN' ANY *FINGERPRINT* EVIDENCE WILL HAVE BEEN *BURNED!* YER OFF THE HOOK, BASSETT!

GLAD TO HEAR IT! NOW, ABOUT THAT *SIGNING-*

DONALD! WHERE'VE YOU *BEEN?*

PRACTICALLY BURIED, AND THANK YOU *SO* MUCH FOR DRAGGING ME INTO THOSE SECRET PASSAGES!

FIRST THING I DID WAS FALL THROUGH A *ROTTEN FLOORBOARD* INTO THE *SEA CAVES* UNDERNEATH THE HOUSE!

THE DATE OF THE INSCR PTION IS *1704!*

AND IN *DIGGING MY WAY OUT,* LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

SO I GUESS COLONEL BASSETT *WON'T HAVE TO SELL HIS MANSION* NOW!

WELL! *CONGRATULATIONS,* DONALD, OL' PAL!

-:HYUCK!:- GAWRSH!

BUT A *GENTLEMAN* CAN'T ACCEPT TREASURE *BELONGING TO OTHERS!*

AFTER THREE *CENTURIES? SURE,* YOU CAN!

THE OWNERS ARE LONG GONE! IT BELONGS TO *WHOEVER OWNS THE PROPERTY!*

IN *THAT* CASE, SUH- I *APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE* FOR AN *UNGENTLEMANLY ACT!*

-:BRBRBRBRPT!:-

The End

Donald Duck IN ORNERY ORB

PART 3 OF THE ORB SAGA

IT'S SURE FUN WATCHING THE *POLO* TEAMS GO AT IT HERE IN THE PARK, EH, DAISY?

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THIS IS WHERE YOU BROUGHT ME ON OUR FIRST DATE, DONALD! AND TOMORROW'S OUR *ANNIVERSARY!*

D 99024

Um, WELL, I...

Oh, NO! I'M FLAT BROKE! I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY DAISY A GIFT!

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET ME ANYTHING *TOO* EXTRAVAGANT!

TUT TUT, TOOTS! NOTHING BUT THE *BEST* FOR MY BEST GIRL!

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHO I CAN BORROW SOME MONEY FROM!

Oh, YEAH?

FORGET IT, NEPHEW! ANNIVERSARIES! CHRISTMAS! GROUNDHOG DAY! I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE AND I'M *NOT* IMPRESSED!

NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE!

NO GIFT WILL HAVE ANY MEANING UNLESS YOU EARN IT WITH SWEAT, DETERMINATION, AND A FEW HARD KNOCKS! GET A JOB!

SIGH!

LISTEN! I TELL YOU WHAT I *WILL* DO! I'LL PAY FOR YOU TO REGISTER AT THE LAZ-E BOY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY! FOR THE FEE, THEY'LL *GUARANTEE* TO LAND YOU THREE JOBS!

OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOMETHING AS *COLLATERAL* FOR THE LOAN!

GREAT! I'M SURE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING OF VALUE AT HOME!

BUT-

SORRY, NEPHEW! DOO-DADS AND JUNK! THAT'S ALL I SEE! NOTHING THAT CAN CONCEIVABLY BACK MY LOAN!

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

THAT'S A *ROCK!*

THIS IS NO *ORDINARY* ROCK, UNCLE SCROOGE! IT CAME FROM THE CRATER OF MOUNT VESUVIUS!

"REMEMBER? THIS ORB STOPPED MAGICA DE SPELL FROM MELTING YOUR NUMBER ONE DIME INTO A MOLTEN GLOB!"

=SNIFF!= IT'S A *SPECIAL* LITTLE ORB! IT HAS =SNUK!= GREAT SENTIMENTAL VALUE!

YOU'VE CONVINCED ME, DONALD!

I'LL *TAKE* IT AS COLLATERAL! GET A JOB! BUY A GIFT FOR DAISY! THEN REPAY ME AND I'LL RETURN THE ORB!

IT'S A DEAL, UNCLE SCROOGE!

THE NEXT MORNING—

AH! TIME TO PUT THE OLD NOSE TO THE... SAY! THAT'S STRANGE! I'D *SWEAR* SOMETHING'S MISSING FROM THIS OFFICE! BUT WHAT?!

AH-*HAH!* THE *ORB* DONALD GAVE ME! I WAS USING IT AS A PAPERWEIGHT AND NOW IT'S *GONE!*

WHO COULD HAVE TAKEN IT? DONALD?! WELL, MAYBE!

AFTER ALL, HE *WAS* THE ONE WHO WAS GUSHING ABOUT ITS SENTIMENTAL VALUE!

THAT *DOUBLE-DEALER'S* GOT A LOT OF NERVE! BY GUMP, I'M GOING TO TRACK HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW!

SHORTLY, AT YE OLDE SODA SHOPPE—

THE LAZ-E BOY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY CAME THROUGH WITH FLYING COLORS! I'M A NATURAL JERK... Uh, *SODA* JERK!

SO! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD NAB MY ORB AND NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I NEVER TOOK ANYTHING!

INDEED? THEN WHAT'S *THAT?!*

YIPE! THE ORB!

GRR!

THIEVERY CAN NEVER BE CONDONED BY THE HONEST PROFESSION OF SODA JERKISM! HIT THE BRICKS, DUCK! YOU'RE *FIRED!*

LAZ-E BOY DOES IT AGAIN! DONALD GOES TO WORK IN A BED FRAME FACTORY—

KNOB-O-MATIC

ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS KEEP THIS HOPPER FILLED WITH BED-KNOBS AS EACH FRAME PASSES THROUGH THE KNOB-O-MATIC! PIECE O' CAKE!

YOU'VE GOT COLOSSAL GALL, NEPHEW! MY ORB IS GONE AGAIN! WHY, I'VE A GOOD MIND TO...

B-BUT I DIDN'T *TAKE* YOUR ORB! *HONEST!*

Oh, NO?! THEN EXPLAIN *THAT!*

AWP! IT'S THE ORB!

KA-LUNK!

WHOLP!

GOOD HEAVENS! DONALD DESERVES SOME PUNISHMENT, BUT THIS IS A LITTLE *EXTREME!*

CHUG!

HAALLP!

CHORTLE!

MNMRRF!

LET THAT BE A *LESSON* TO YOU, RAPSCALLION! DON'T PULL THIS STUNT AGAIN!

INCOMPETENT BOOB! YOU'RE *FIRED!*

GULP! THE LAZ-E BOY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WILL ONLY GUARANTEE ME *ONE* MORE JOB!

ALL RIGHT, YOU ORNERY ORB! YOU'RE BACK WHERE YOU BELONG! THIS TIME I'M GOING TO KEEP MY EYE ON YOU!

IF DONALD TRIES TO GRAB YOU AGAIN, I'LL CATCH HIM RED-HANDED!

EH?! MY CLOCK IS TOLL-ING THE NOON HOUR!

DONG!

DONG!

DONG!

WELL, PICKLE ME AND CALL ME DILL! THE ORB IS *VIBRATING* IN RESPONSE TO THE CLOCK'S CHIME!

DONG!

DONG!

HOLY FUDD! IT'S ROLLING OFF THE DESK! BOUNCING OUT THE DOOR!

BONK!

CAREENING INTO THAT POTTED PLANT! RICOCHET NG INTO THE AIR!

YOICKS!! IT FLEW RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW! LIKE IT HAD A MIND OF ITS OWN! THIS IS *WEIRD!*

WHIIIISH!

CUSHLAMACREE! THE ORB LANDED SMACK ON TOP OF THAT PASSING TAXI! AND DONALD'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

NOW MY TAILFEATHERS ARE *REALLY* IN AN UPROAR! I'VE *GOT* TO FIND OUT WHAT THE DING DANG DEAL IS!

TAXI

THE TAXI'S BRAKING AT A SIGNAL! BUT THAT'S NOT STOPPING THE ORB!

Yiiip!

A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND DEFLECTED IT TOWARDS DUCKBURG BOWLING LANES! I WONDER...

WHOOOOSH!

SURE ENOUGH! DONALD IS NOW EMPLOYED IN THE BOWLING ALLEY AS A PIN SETTER-

Oh, CRIMINY! CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!

DON'T WORRY! I NO LONGER BELIEVE YOU FILCHED THE ORB!

STA-RRRIKE!!

YOW!

FORGIVE ME, NEPHEW! I HAD YOU WRONG! THIS ORB HAS GOT SOME MYSTERIOUS DESIGN ALL ITS OWN!

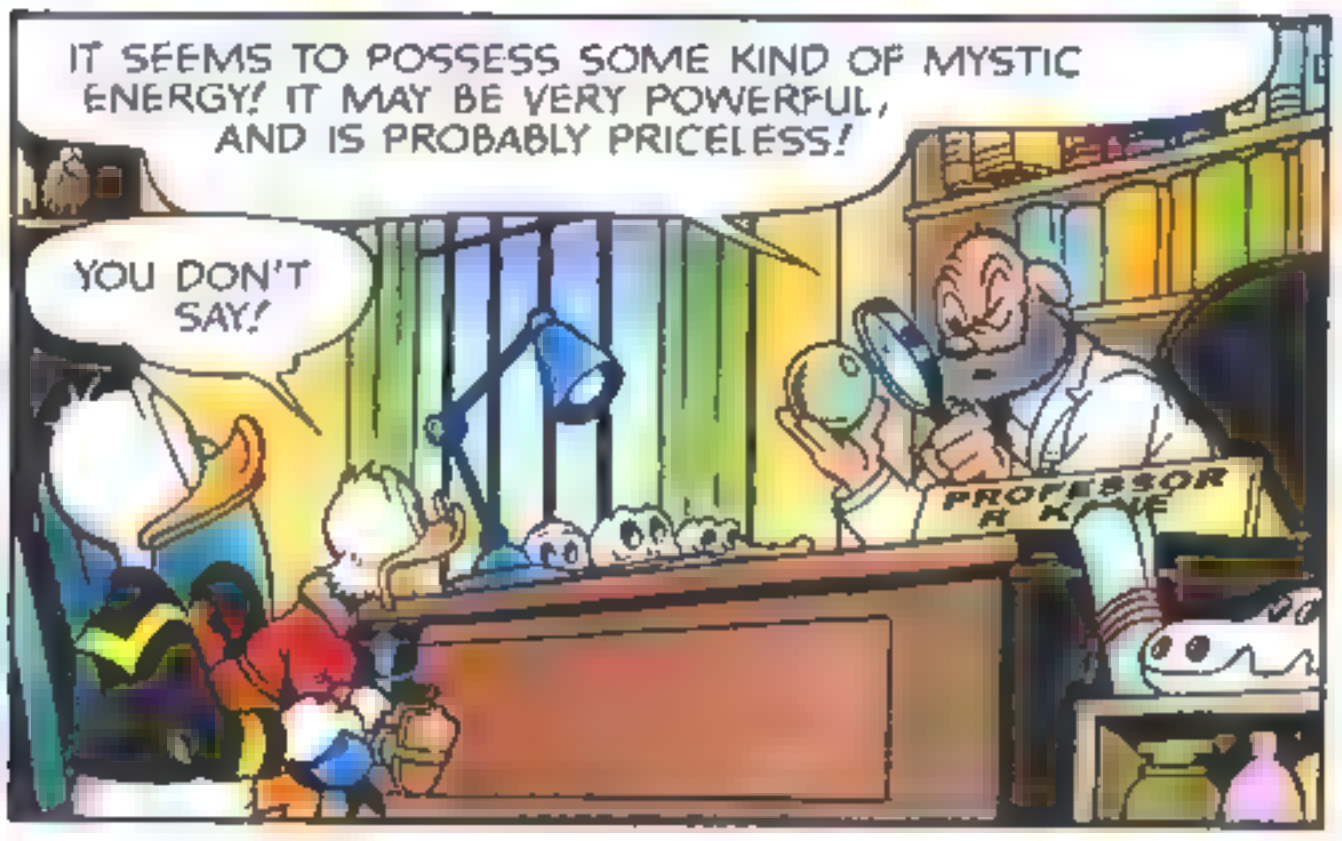
FAT LOTTA GOOD *THAT* DOES ME! HERE COMES MY MANAGER!

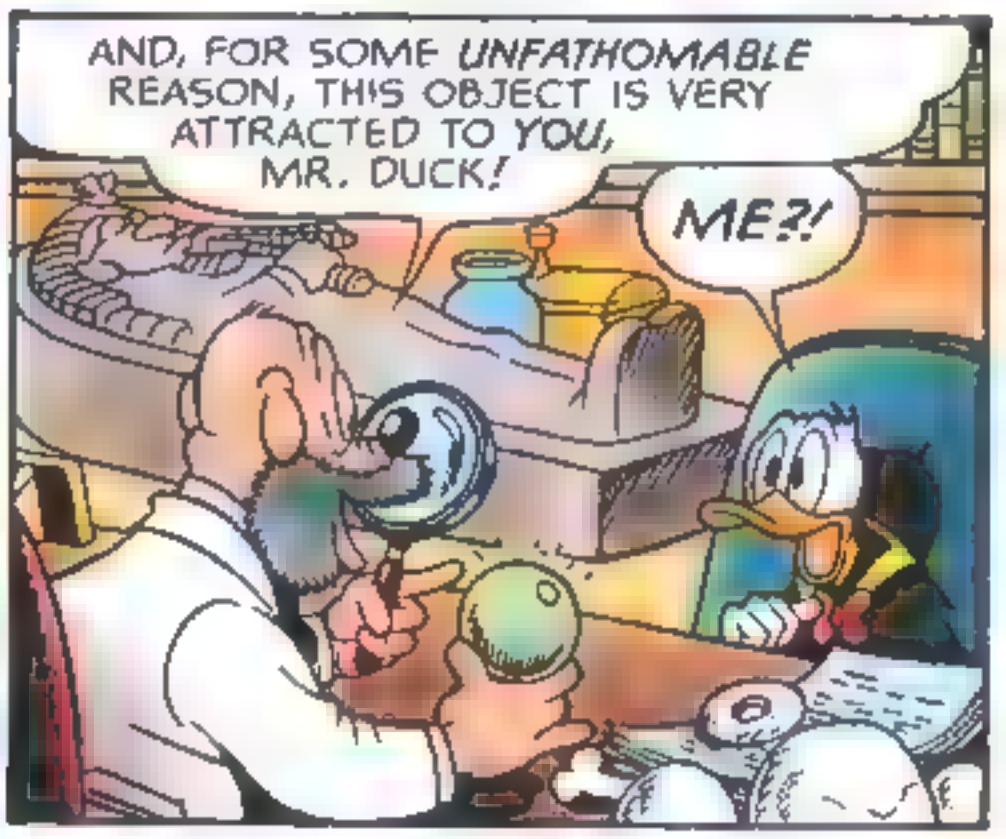
YOU'RE FIRED, DUCK! MY BOWLERS NEED THEIR PINS SET WITH NO DILLY DALLY!

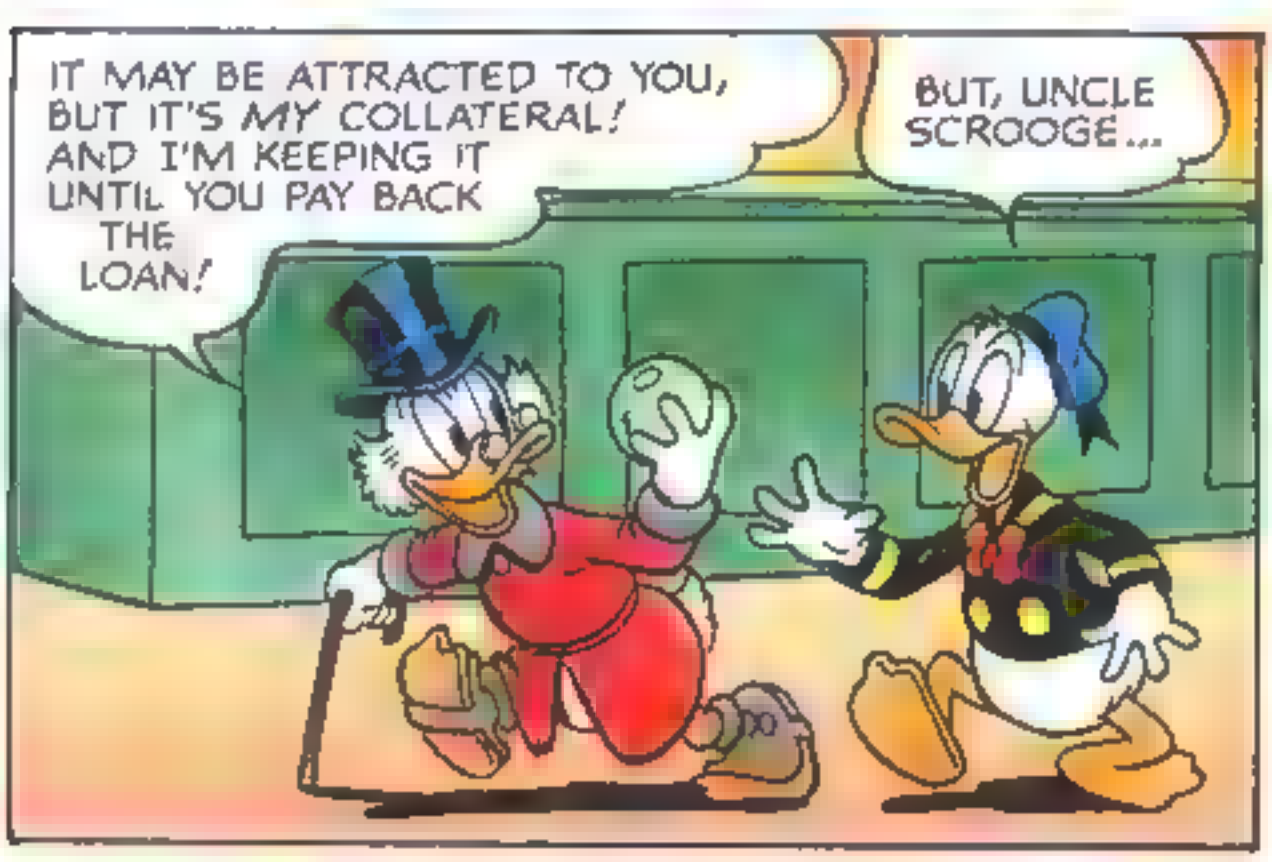
GREAT! MY THIRD AND LAST JOB! *NOW* WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!

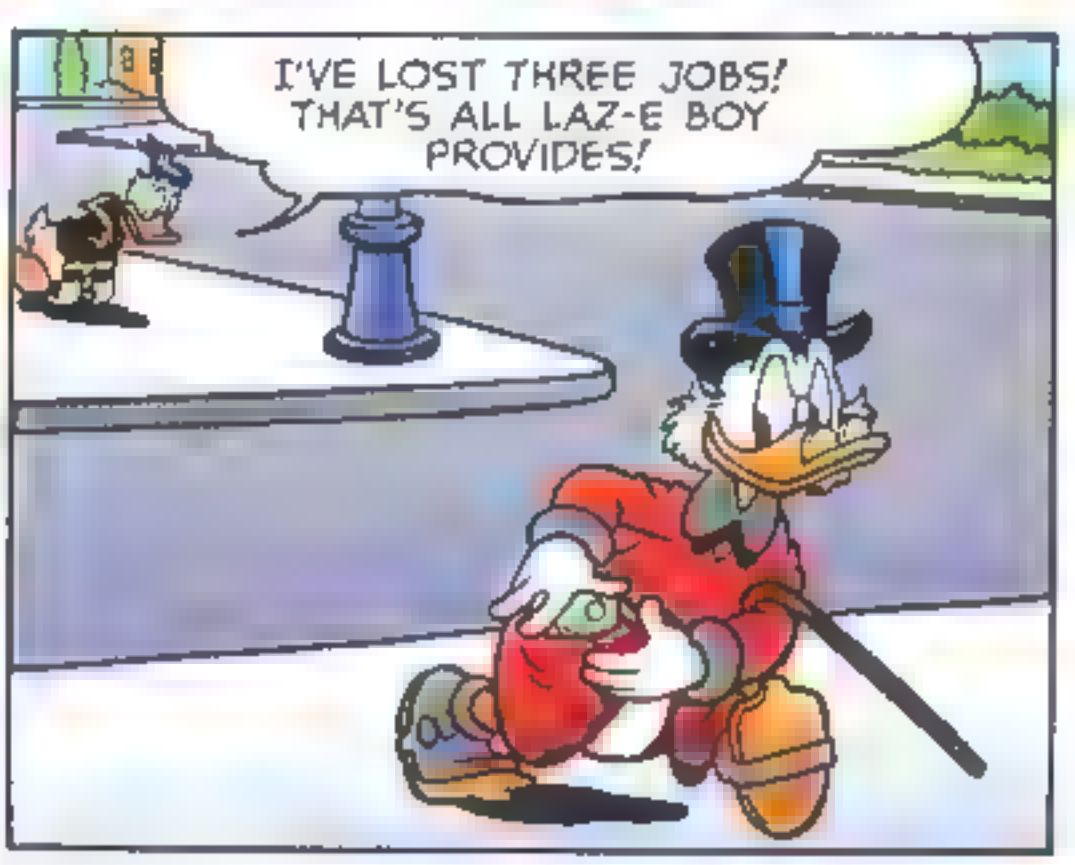
NEVER MIND THAT! WE'VE BIGGER FISH TO FRY! WHY IS THIS PERPLEXING ORB DRAWN TO YOU?! LET'S FIND OUT!

DUCKBURG UNIVERSITY
HALL OF ANTHROPOLOGY
GENTLEMEN, I CAN'T TELL YOU *WHAT* THIS IS! BUT I *CAN* TELL YOU THAT IT IS VERY OLD... ANCIENT, IN FACT!

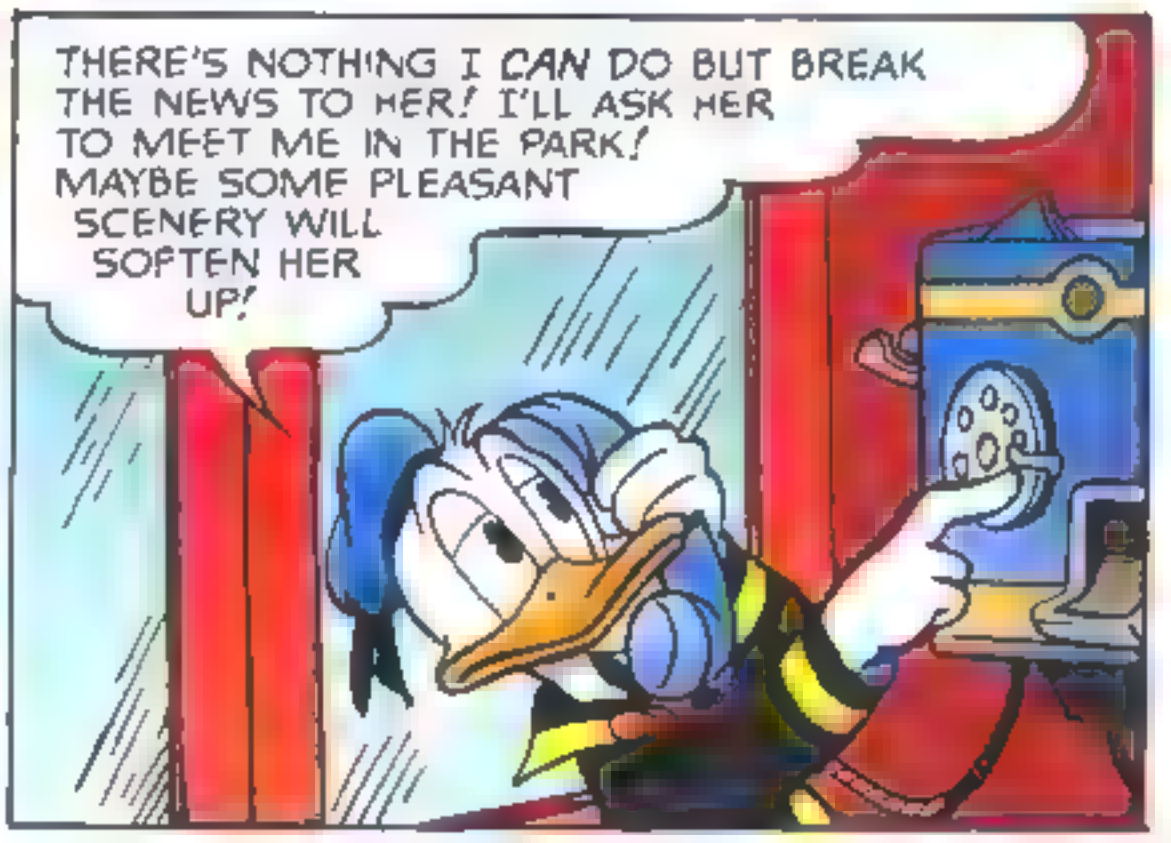

IT SEEMS TO POSSESS SOME KIND OF MYSTIC ENERGY! IT MAY BE VERY POWERFUL, AND IS PROBABLY PRICELESS!
YOU DON'T SAY!


AND, FOR SOME *UNFATHOMABLE* REASON, THIS OBJECT IS VERY ATTRACTED TO *YOU*, MR. DUCK!
ME?!


IT MAY BE ATTRACTED TO YOU, BUT IT'S *MY* COLLATERAL! AND I'M KEEPING IT UNTIL YOU PAY BACK THE LOAN!
BUT, UNCLE SCROOGE...


I'VE LOST THREE JOBS! THAT'S ALL LAZ-E BOY PROVIDES!

PHONE
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'M IN DEBT TO UNCLE SCROOGE AND I *STILL* CAN'T AFFORD AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT FOR DAISY!


THERE'S NOTHING I *CAN* DO BUT BREAK THE NEWS TO HER! I'LL ASK HER TO MEET ME IN THE PARK! MAYBE SOME PLEASANT SCENERY WILL SOFTEN HER UP!

MEANWHILE—

WHEN I GET BACK TO THE OFFICE I'LL LOCK THE PESKY ORB IN MY VAULT SO IT CAN'T GO ANYWHERE!

UNTIL THEN, IT'LL STAY SNUGGLED SAFE AND SOUND IN MY POCKET!

OOOOH! PRETTY BUDDERFLIES!

COME ALONG, BOBBIE JUNE!

OOOOOH! PRETTY FLOWERS!

YEOWLP!

MADAM! THAT CHILD IS A *MENACE!*

OOOOOH!

OH, DEAR! I'M SO TERRIBLY SORRY! LET ME HELP YOU UP!

PRETTY BALL! OOOOOH! COME BACK!

CONFOUND IT! STOP *FUSSING* OVER ME, WOMAN!

I'M SO SORRY, SIR! MY DAUGHTER'S THE RAMBUNCTIOUS SORT! IN FACT, BOBBIE JUNE IS...

GONE?! OH, MY CORSETS AND STAYS! MY DEAR BABY BOBBIE JUNE IS GONE!

ULP! THE ORB! IT'S MISSING FROM MY POCKET!!

YOUR DAUGHTER PROBABLY TAGGED ALONG AFTER IT! IF WE FIND THE SPHERE, WE'LL FIND THE CHILD!

DON'T WORRY, DARLING! MOMMA'S COMING!

I THINK I KNOW WHY YOU ASKED ME TO MEET YOU HERE, DONALD! YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME A GIFT TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST DATE, AREN'T YOU?

GEE, DAISY, I...

LISTEN, DOLL! I'VE GOT TO COME CLEAN! I... OH, NO!

DONALD? WHAT *IS* IT?

HERE COMES THAT CRAZY ORB! AND SOME KID IS FOLLOWING IT... RIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE POLO GAME!

THOSE POLO PLAYERS ARE IN SUCH A FRENZIED LATHER THEY'LL *NEVER* SEE HER!

Oh, DONALD! *BE CAREFUL!*

COME ON, SWEETIE! UNCA DONALD WON'T LET THOSE HORSEY MEN SCARE YOU!

OOOOH! FUNNY-LOOKING DUCK!

THERE! NOW TO GRAB THE ORB BEFORE THOSE SADDLE-BOUND *SAPS* MISTAKE IT FOR THEIR BALL!

YEEOOWCH!

WHAAAACK!

EASY, SPARKPLUG! EASY! I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH!

TEE-HEE!

SNORT!

WHEN IN DOUBT, GO FOR THE HIGH GROUND!

HEY! GET OFFA ME, WADDLER! YOU'RE SPOOKING MY HORSE!

WHOA, NELLIE!

WAK!

WHIINNIE!

URGH! SWEET MERCY! NOTHING'S BROKEN! BUT WHERE'S THE *KID?!*

THUD!

WUFF!

TEE-HEE!

DAISY! TAKE CARE OF THE KID WHILE I TRY TO RESCUE THE ORB FROM THOSE MALLET-WIELDING MANIACS!

THERE IT IS! COME TO POPPA!

ORNERY ORB! YOU'RE MORE *TROUBLE* THAN A BERSERK PACK OF...

...PUH-PUH-POLO PLAYERS?! GULP!

PAINFUL MOMENTS LATER—

DONALD DUCK! YOU'RE MY *HERO!*

...IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I BREATHE...

BOBBIE JUNE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

YOU'VE SAVED MY CHILD, YOUNG MAN! YOU DESERVE A REWARD!

HUH?! FOR *ME?*

THANKS, NEPHEW! THIS'LL COVER THAT *LOAN* NICELY! CONSIDER YOUR DEBT PAID!

!

THAT TROUBLESOME ORB IS ALL *YOURS* ONCE AGAIN!

AND SO, DONALD ESCORTS DAISY HOME...

WELL, DONALD? WEREN'T YOU GOING TO *GIVE* ME SOMETHING BEFORE WE WERE INTERRUPTED?

Hmm! WHAT DID UNCLE SCROOGE SAY?

A MEANINGFUL GIFT MUST BE *EARNED* WITH SWEAT, DETERMINATION, AND A FEW HARD KNOCKS!

WELL, I'VE GOT *MORE* THAN A FEW NOW!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DAISY!

Oh, DONALD! IT'S *BEAUTIFUL!*

THAT ORB IS VERY OLD AND... KINDA *MAGICAL!*

I'LL *NEVER* LET IT OUT OF MY SIGHT!

WELL, I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, TOOTS!

BYE-BYE, DONALD! SWEET DREAMS!

I MUST TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT MY LOVELY LITTLE ORB! WHY... IT'S *GONE!*

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! ISN'T THAT THE *STRANGEST* THING? I WONDER WHERE IN THE WORLD IT WENT?

THE END!

PANCHITO

By

WALT DISNEY

ZS 44-10-29

I AM CHARM' TO GO AFTER THEES FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, FRIEND CHUY..

500 PESOS BOUNTY "EL DIABLO"

HAVE THE CARE, AMIGO! "EL DIABLO" EEZ A KEELER!

AHA! OLE! THE FEETSMARKS OF "EL DIABLO"!

WE ARE REECH, SEÑOR MARTINEZ! I AM BUYING THE SEELVER SPURS WHAT GO HINGLE, HINGLE, HINGLE!

I AM BUYING YOU THE STRAW SOMBRERO TO KEEP OFF THE SUN ... NOW.. WHAT SHALL WE USE FOR BAIT?

A LEETLE RABBITS, MAYBE?

SEÑOR MARTINEZ' I AM NOT NEEDING THE BAIT ANY MORE!

SEÑOR MARTINEZ... YOUR MANNERS!

NEX' TIME I BEELD A CAGE FOR "EL DABLO"... I WEEL BE KIND ENOUGH TO GEEVE HEEM MORE ROOM!

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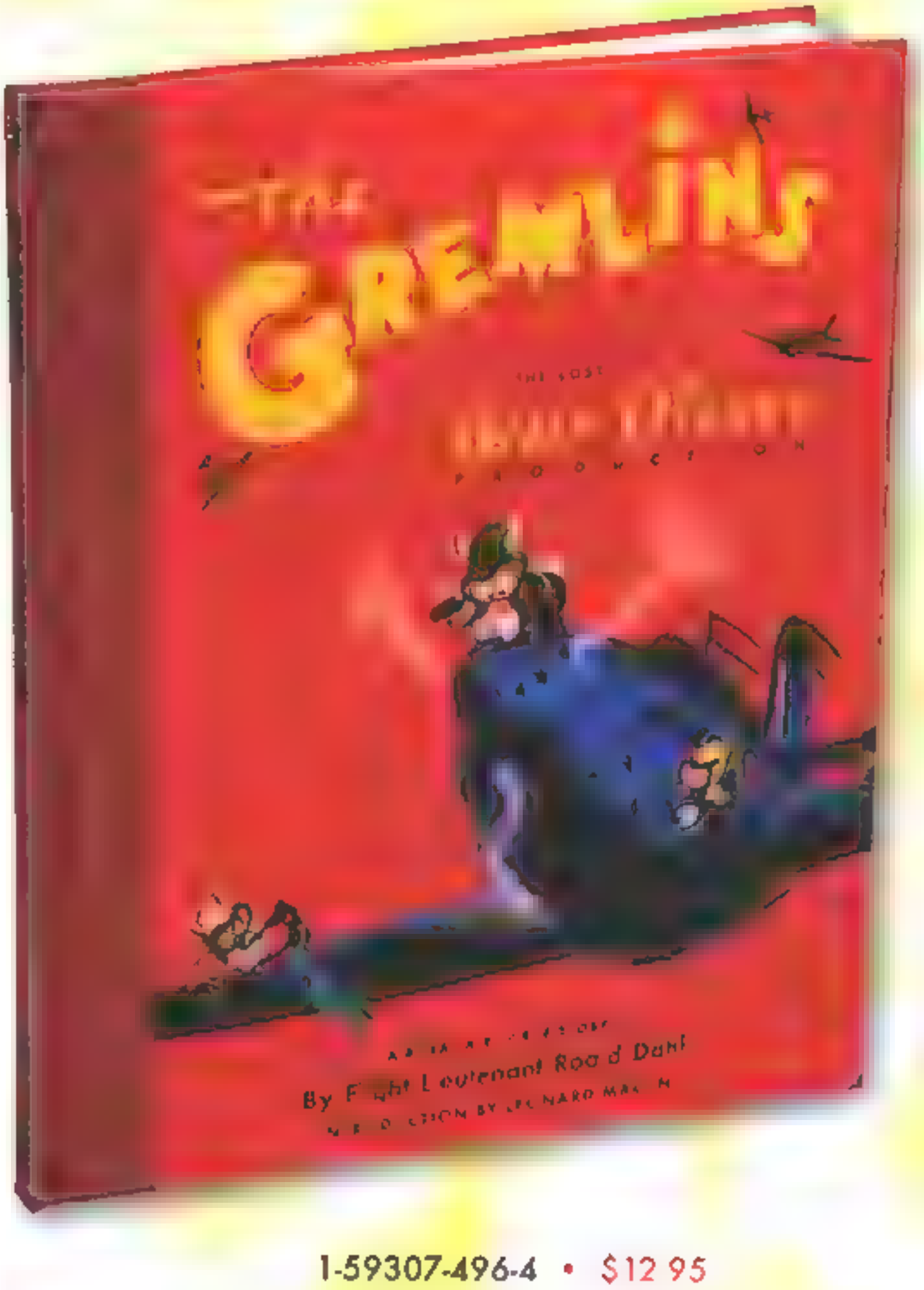

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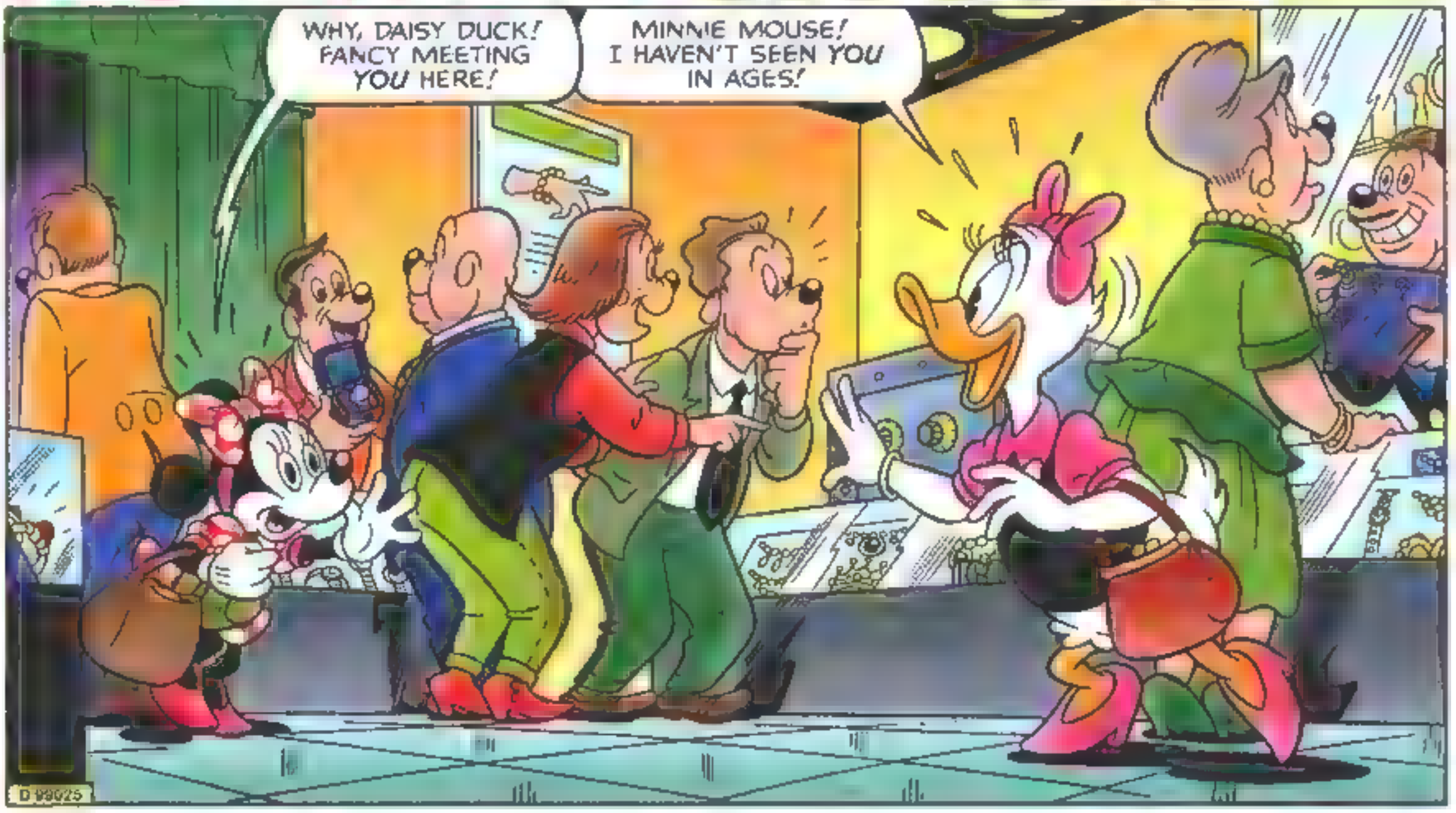
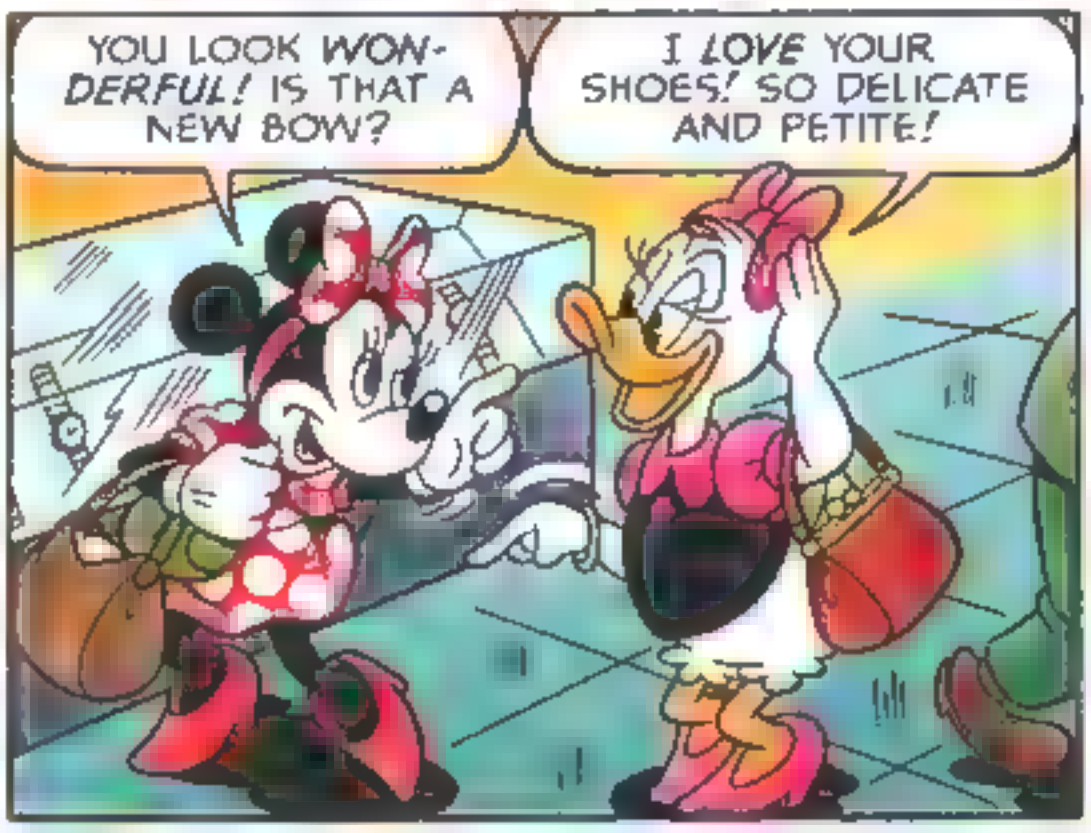
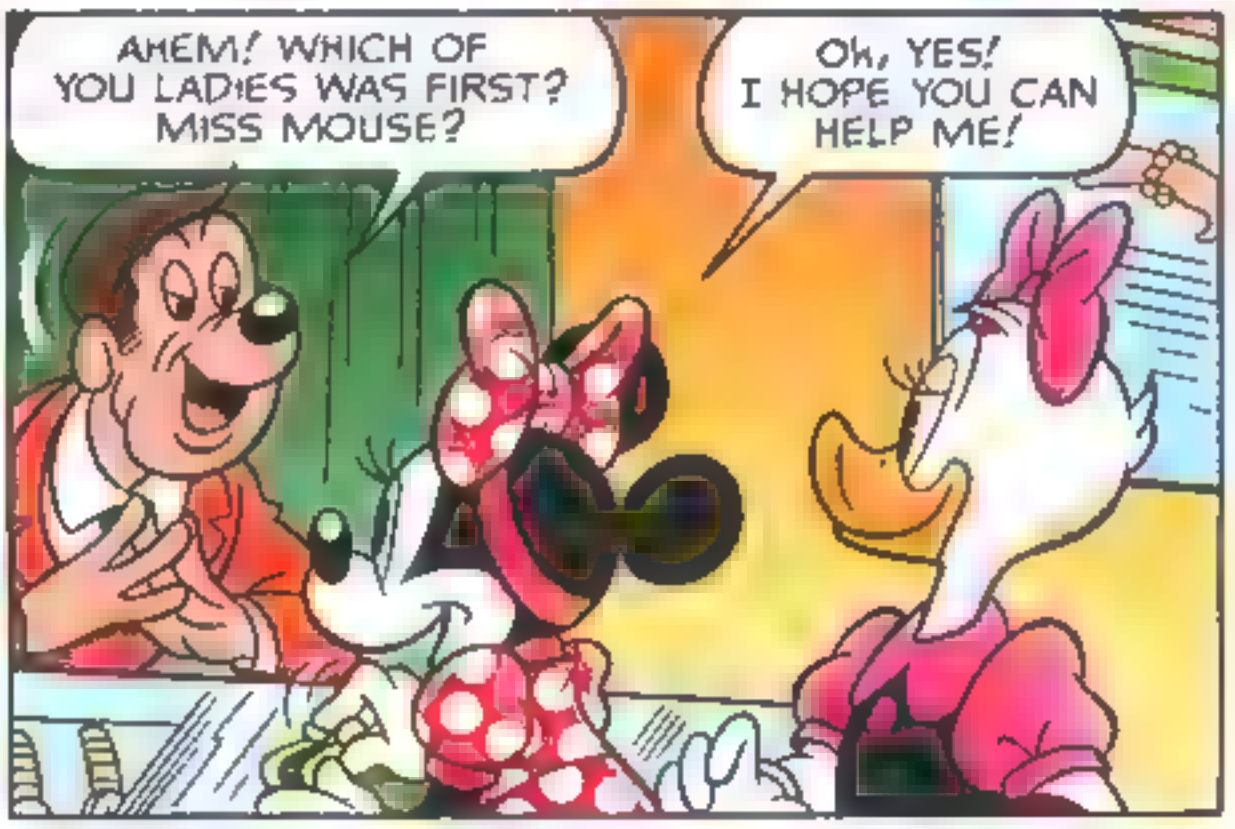
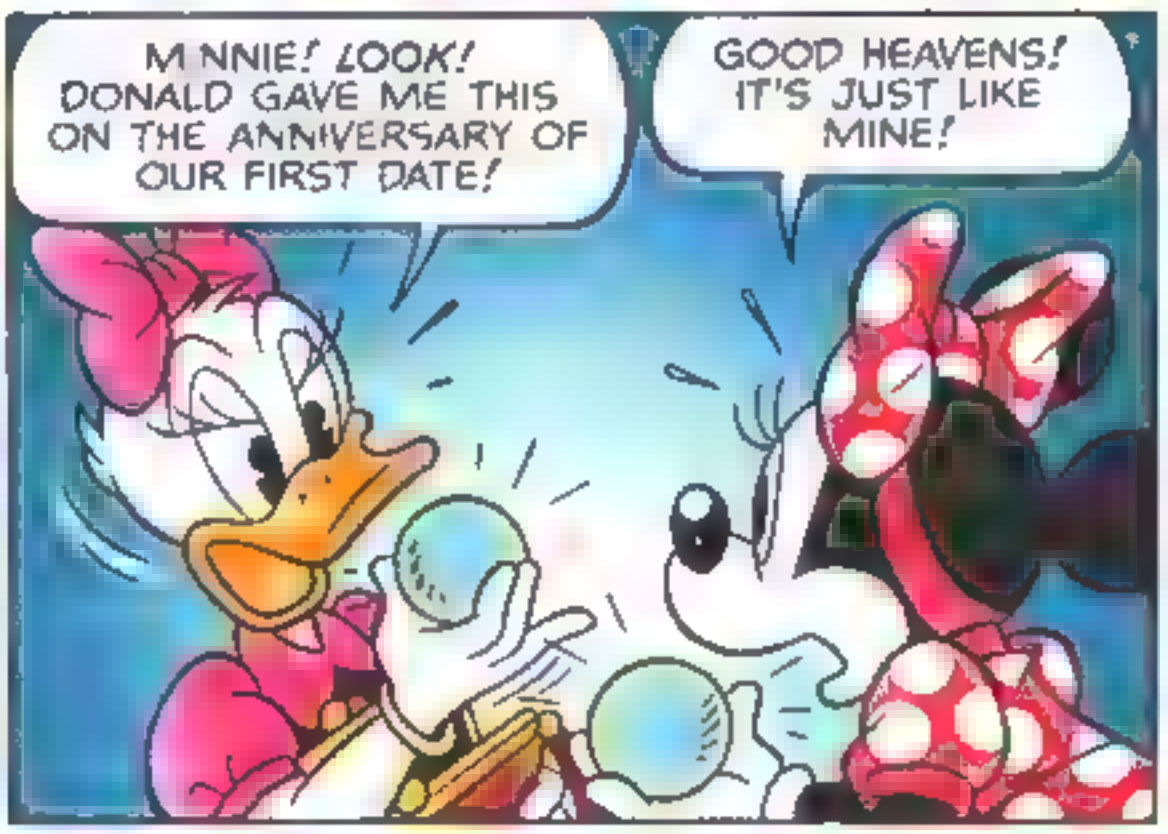
PART 4 OF THE ORB SAGA









THIS IS SO WEIRD! DOES YOUR ORB HAVE A MYSTERIOUS ATTRACTION TO DONALD?

I'LL SAY! IT SEEMS TO FOLLOW HIM EVERYWHERE!

THE SAME WITH MICKEY AND THIS ONE! IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE DARN THING HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN!

WHERE DID MICKEY *GET* THAT ORB?

"HE FOUND IT EMBEDDED WITHIN A WALL OF ICE WHILE FOILING THE PHANTOM BLOT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF FAR-OFF YUBET!

"WHEN MICKEY MOVED NEAR IT, THE ORB MELTED THROUGH THE ICE AND FLEW RIGHT INTO HIS HAND!

"STRANGE! DONALD WAS ATOP MOUNT VESUVIUS, HELPING UNCLE SCROOGE SAVE HIS NUMBER ONE DIME FROM MAGICA DE SPELL!

"IT WAS LODGED IN THE VOLCANO! WHEN DONALD CAME CLOSE, IT SHOT OUT, BONKED MAGICA AND LANDED IN HIS LAP!"

I WAS PLANNING ON HAVING MY ORB MOUNTED IN A LOCKED CASE SO IT COULDN'T FIND ITS WAY BACK TO DONALD! NOW I'M NOT SO SURE...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! IT'S ALMOST AS IF OUR BOYFRIENDS ARE *MEANT* TO HAVE THESE THINGS!

ALL RIGHT, FOLKS! THIS IS A *STICK-UP!*

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! IT'S THE BEAGLE BOYS!

EVERYBODY STAY CALM! JUST PUT YER MITTS IN TH' AIR AND YOU'LL BE FINE!

I'LL CLEAN OUT TH' DISPLAY CASES WHILST YOU *DYNAMITE* TH' SAFE, BROTHER!

BE-YOOT-E-FUL! JUST TH' RIGHT AMOUNT O' TNT!

BAAAA-BOOOM!

OKEY-DOKE! WE GOT TH' GOODS! LET'S SCRAM!

STOP TH' PRESSES! TAKE A GANDER AT WHAT THEM DAMES'VE GOT!

WOW! A COUPLE'A ROCKS TH' SIZE OF BILLIARD BALLS!

OF ALL THE *NERVE!*

WE'LL TAKE THOSE *DOO-DADS* OFF YOUR HANDS, LADIES!

MY *BOYFRIEND* GAVE ME THAT AS AN ANNIVERSARY PRESENT! GET YOUR GRUBBY PAWS *OFF* OF IT!

YOUCH!

YOU GREEDY BABOON! MY *SWEETIE* WANTED ME TO HAVE THAT! IT'S A *GIFT!*

GEEZ, LADY! *OUCCH!!*

LET'S *VAMOOSE!*

YOU SAID IT! TH' COPS ARE *PUSSYCATS* COMPARED TO A PAIR O' SKIRTS WHO KNOW HOW TO PACK A WALLOP!

THOSE SLEAZY LOWLIFES CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, MINNIE! I'LL FIND THEM IF IT'S THE *LAST* THING I DO!

I'M WITH YOU, SISTER! BUT WHERE DO WE LOOK?

I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE THEY LEFT A *CLUE* BEHIND!

HERE'S THE BOOK OF *MATCHES* THOSE STUMBLE-BUMS USED TO LIGHT THE DYNAMITE!

THE SLIMY SEAGULL?! THAT WHARFSIDE TAVERN IS AN UNDERWORLD HANGOUT! Hmmm...

WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!

HOLD IT, DAISY! IT COULD BE A ROUGH JOINT! NOW WHAT IF WE WERE TO... PSSST... PSSST...

WHY, MINNIE! THAT'S A SIMPLY *WONDERFUL* IDEA!

THAT NIGHT—

The SLIMY SEAGULL

THIS DIVE IS FULL OF UNSAVORY CHARACTERS AND MUSCLE-BOUND BRUTES, DAISY! REMEMBER... ACT *TOUGH!*

Oh, DEAR!

HEY, BARKEEP! WE WANTA WET OUR WHISTLES!

NAME YER POISON, FELLERS!

I'LL HAVE A *MILK*, PLEASE!

MILK?!

...Uh...

IN A *DIRTY* GLASS! AND MAKE IT *SNAPPY!*

YUH-YUH-YES, SIR!

ME 'N MY PARTNER ARE LOOKING FOR THREE SLEAZY WEASELS BY THE NAME O' THE BEAGLE BOYS!

AN' JUST WHY ARE YOU PIPSQUEAKS SO INTERESTED IN THEIR WHEREABOUTS?

WE HEAR THEY GOT SOME *LOOT* TO FENCE!

WHUMP!

AN' WE'RE THE *BEST* FENCES IN TOWN! ANYONE GOT A *PROB-LEM* WITH THAT?!

NUH-NUH-NO, SIR!

YEAH, I SEEN THEM GUYS! THEY HANG OUT IN HERE SOME-TIMES! SO WHAT?!

SO WE'LL PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR THEIR LOOT! *THAT'S* WHAT!!

WE'LL BE AT TH' TOWN DUMP TOMORRA NIGHT! IF YOU SEE THE BEAGLES, TELL 'EM TO *MEET* US THERE!

TEE-HEE! *ACTING* TOUGH ISN'T SO TOUGH, AFTER ALL! IN FACT, IT'S A LOT OF *FUN!*

WHY, DAISY DUCK! AT LAST I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MANAGE TO KEEP DONALD IN LINE!

The SLIMY SEAGULL

THE FOLLOWING EVENING-

WE GOT WORD AT TH' SLIMY SEAGULL YOU WAS *LOOKIN'* FOR US!

SAY! A'N'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE *TWO* OF YOU? WHERE'S YER PARTNER?

I'M TH' BRAINS O' THIS OUTFIT, SEE! I SENT THAT TWERP AWAY ON ERRANDS!

OKAY! OKAY! DON'T BLOW YER STACK!

THE BEAGLES BOUGHT IT HOOK, LINE AND SINKER! THEY DON'T SUSPECT THIS "TWERP" IS SECRETLY WATCHING THEIR EVERY MOVE!

ENOUGH JABBERIN'! LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

RIGHT! I'LL GIVE YOU *TEN* PERCENT OF MARKET VALUE FOR TH' LOOT FROM YER JEWELRY STORE HEIST!

TEN PERCENT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WHAT DO WE LOOK LIKE? A BUNCHA SAPS?

THAT'S MY OFFER! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

HUMPH! WE'LL *LEAVE* IT! LET'S SCRAM, BROTHERS!

GOOD RIDDANCE, SEZ I!

Heh! OUR PLAN'S GOING LIKE CLOCK-WORK!

THEY HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA I'M SHADOWING THEM! WITH LUCK, THOSE BEAGLE BOOBS WILL LEAD ME RIGHT TO THEIR HIDEOUT!

BRIGHT AND EARLY THE NEXT MORNING—

WELL, MINNIE, THANKS TO YOUR PLAN, WE KNOW WHERE THOSE CREEPS ARE HOLED UP!

NOW WE JUST WAIT FOR THEM TO GO OUT FOR THE DAY!

SHORTLY—

COME ON, BOYS! LET'S LEAVE TH' LOOT IN THE HIDEOUT AND FIND US A FENCE WHO'LL GIVE US A SQUARE DEAL!

YEAH! WE NEED A FENCE WHO AIN'T *CROOKED!*

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THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG! WE'LL SIMPLY NAB OUR ORBS AND SKE-DADDLE!

DRAT! THOSE RASCALS LOCKED THE DOOR! DO YOU HAVE A HAIRPIN, DAISY?

UGH! WHAT POOR HOUSEKEEPERS! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND *ANYTHING* IN THIS MESS?

I GUESS WE JUST START LOOKING!

LONG MINUTES LATER—

I HAVEN'T TURNED UP A THING! HOW ABOUT YOU? ANY LUCK?

ONLY IF YOU CALL UNWASHED SOCKS LUCKY!

AHA! A WALL SAFE! NO DOUBT OUR ORBS AND THE JEWELS ARE IN THERE!

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN OPEN *THAT* WITH A HAIR PIN!

LISTEN! SOMETHING'S *RUSTLING* IN THE SAFE! COULD IT BE THE ORBS... WANTING OUT?

ULP! I HEAR SOMETHING ELSE! THE BEAGLE BOYS ARE RETURNING!

HEY! WHO LEFT TH' DOOR OPEN?

BEHIND THE DRAPES, DAISY! *QUICKLY!*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, SISTER!

I TELL YA, BOYS! I SHUT THE DOOR AN' LOCKED IT! I THINK...

HMF! *THINKING* AIN'T YOUR STRONG SUIT!

FORGET IT!

NOW THAT WE FOUND A GUY WHO'LL TAKE OUR LOOT FOR A FAIR PRICE, WE CAN CASH IN!

I'LL GET TH' GOODS OUTTA TH' SAFE!

ALL RIGHT! WHO LEFT THEIR *SHOES* LYIN' AROUND?

NOT ME! HERE'S TH' JEWELS! I BET WE GET A PRETTY PENNY FOR 'EM!

WONDER WHAT WE'LL GET FOR *THESE* HUNKS O' JUNK?

THEY BETTER BE WORTH *SOMETHIN'!*

THEM CRAZY LADIES NEARLY *MOIDERED* US WHEN WE SNATCHED 'EM! WHAT A COUPLE'A NUTBALL SHREWS!

HEY! LOOKIT ME! I'M A JUGGLER!

WHOOPS!

OWWW!

BONK!

HEY! WHAT'D YUH DO *THAT* FOR, YOU BLOCKHEAD?

DON'T CALL ME A BLOCKHEAD, YUH BIG PAIN IN THE NECK!

PAIN IN THE NECK AM I? I'LL GIVE YOU A *REAL* PAIN IN THE NECK!

WHUFF!

KNOCK IT OFF! BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO— *WHOLP!*

HURFF!

GET *OFFA* US, YOU LUMMOX!

GRRR! YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU DONE THAT!

BUH-BUH-BUT...

BONK!

PSSST! MINNIE?

CRASH!

BAM!

THE ORBS ARE ROLLING TOWARD THE DOOR! LIKE THEY WANT TO GET AWAY ALL ON THEIR OWN!

WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?! LET'S FOLLOW THEIR LEAD!

I DON'T KNOW WHO GETS CREDIT FOR BAMBOOZLING THE BEAGLE BOYS! US OR THE ORBS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'VE GOT OUR PRECIOUS GIFTS BACK!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE STOLEN JEWELS? WE'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!

I'M *WAY* AHEAD OF YOU, DAISY!

HASTY MOMENTS LATER–

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! CAUGHT RED-HANDED IN OUR OWN HIDEOUT!

WE'VE BEEN COMBING THE CITY FOR THESE CHARACTERS, LADIES! THANK YOU!

TEE-HEE! THANK *YOU*, OFFICER!

THAT WAS EXCITING! NOW I GUESS WE GO BACK TO OUR NORMAL ROUTINE! SIGH!

I DON'T THINK THINGS WILL EVER *BE* NORMAL WITH THESE ORBS AROUND!

THEY *ARE* RATHER MYSTERIOUS! WHAT'S THE *REAL* STORY BEHIND THEM? MAYBE SOME DAY WE'LL FIND OUT!

WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, THIS ADVENTURE PROVES WE'RE *GOOD* AT FINDING THINGS OUT!

WE *SURE* ARE, SISTER SLEUTH! I'D SAY WE MAKE A FIRST RATE TEAM!

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The End!

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories 670 had a lot to like. First and foremost is the beginning of Floyd Gottfredson and Merill De Maris' "Love Trouble," introducing Montmorency Rodent—the once and future Mortimer Mouse. Those of us who've thrilled to—or cringed at—the hallowed sound of "Hot-cha-cha" on Disney's *House of Mouse* owe much to this formative mouse tale.

Solid Donald, Gyro, and Li'l Bad Wolf entries also add to the fun. But the real curio of the issue is the Joe (José) Carioca story. Four issues before Carl Barks and Donald Duck would forge an immortal partnership in this title, José would take the readers of *WDC&S* on quite the lively romp that would, in spots, presage a TV animation classic of two decades hence.

Compare José's "acquiring" his breakfast and morning newspaper—utilizing his umbrella handle—with the opening sequence of *Top Cat,* where the title character performs strikingly similar actions with his walking stick. Both characters also ride the outside fender of a luxury limousine, and TC once gained entry to a swanky hotel by "walking through" a pair of open doors on such a limo, as did José in the comic.

In the "old days" it was somewhat common for animation and comic book creators to overlap duties. Could the similarities cited above be the result of such a situation? Part of the fun is that we'll never know!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

Or perhaps we will know. After Mr. Know-It-All—er, I mean David Gerstein—reads this challenge, who knows what obscure facts he might dredge up?

Amazing cover for *WDC&S* 670! Talk about vintage! An old Donald and Pluto from way back when Donald was still sort of a duck! This is the kind of thing I love to see from you guys. Now if we could just get some Walt Kelly covers! (By the way, I suspect there is a valid reason you guys haven't run any Kelly covers—lack of demand from anyone but me, the amount of restoration needed, or something. But on the off chance you just haven't gotten around to it, I figure I'll keep hammering away.)

Good stories on the inside, too. Milton and Jippes came through with a strong Donald episode, though for once I think David Gerstein misses the mark. Perhaps his hand was forced by M & J's script, but would Donald really "throw empty bottles out of the car"? What would the Little Booneheads say about that?

Gottfredson's "Love Trouble" looks like it's shaping up to be a great one, and Carl Buettner's "The Carnival King" starring José Carioca was pretty fun to read as well.

The Li'l Bad Wolf story, "Camping Out" has seen reprinting too recently for my tastes, especially considering there must a wealth of unreprinted ancillary character stories available. It is a good story, though, I admit.

I look forward to the next chapter in the Formula One race. I've never been so excited about auto racing, which isn't saying much. It's true, but still, my excitement ought to be worth something!

—Robert Hutchings
via email

Which just goes to show that even if something isn't your cup of tea, it can be made exciting by the introduction of talking Ducks and Mice. Except for soccer, of course, which—at least in Joe Torcivia's case—can't be made palatable through any means. Watch for a Kelly cover next month.

WDC&S 670 is what I've been talking about! What a stellar issue! Seeing that new story by Fred Milton and Daan Jippes was a real treat, and I'd love to see more of those older stories printed. The José Carioca story is exactly the kind of thing I'd like to see show up more in *WDC&S.* Not spectacular, but really obscure!

And of course, I loved seeing the first chapter of "Love Trouble" (finally!). I am delighted how you are printing them in the same format as the old Gladstone *Mickey* issues, and not squeezing them to illegible sizes so three strips fit sideways on a page. My hat's off to you guys!

—Thad Komorowski
via email

Hm. Since I'm taking pot-shots at everybody else in this lettercol, should I say something about finally producing the perfect issue for Thad? Nah.

—John Clark

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